

THE MCGILL DAILY

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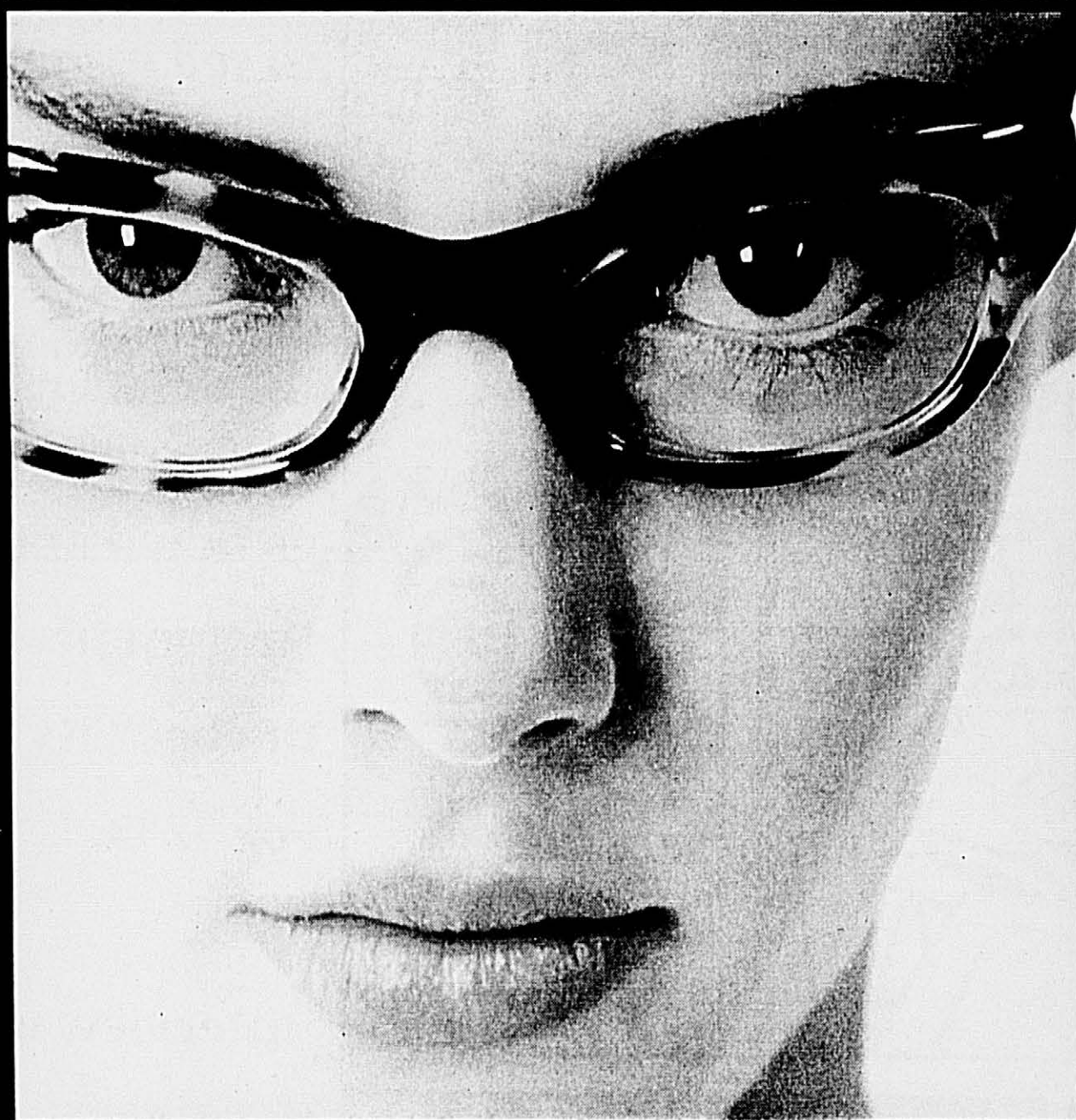
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McGill Weighing Deal with Thomson Corp

Agreement paves way for corporatized, low-quality education, critics say

BY JAIME KIRZNER-ROBERTS
The McGill Daily

A mega-deal between Thomson Corp. and 18 universities across the world, including McGill, is on the horizon.

If the deal is accepted, Thomson will market a new line of web-based university courses bearing the names of participating universities. In return for the use of their names, universities will receive royalties on all profits made by Thomson from the initiative.

McGill, however, has yet to decide whether to sign on to the deal.

"We are in the midst of looking at the material and trying to make a decision," McGill Principal Bernard Shapiro said last week. He expects a decision to be made in the coming weeks.

Faculty leaders say they're worried a deal with Thomson paves the way for an increasingly corporatized and low-quality education system.

"Universities like McGill are moving towards a corporate model, where education becomes a commodity which can be sold," said Jim Turk, Executive Director of the Canadian Association of University Teachers. "You can also see that jurisdiction is being given to private corporations that don't really have any stake or experience in undertaking the vital role of providing public education."

But according to University of Melbourne professor and U-21 chair Chris Robinson, Universitas 21 has seized on a major marketing opportunity.

"Universities are getting less and less

from the public purse and need more revenue to keep up the quality of what they do," said Robinson.

Robinson believes that demand for on-line education will quadruple worldwide over the next 10 years due to globalization and the new "knowledge-based economy." If existing educational institutions want to maintain their quality in the face of cut-backs, he says, they must strive to meet the rising demand by signing on to initiatives like the one proposed with Thomson.

"[Universitas 21] has set out to establish a major global e-education business, and I believe that the Thomson deal could bring us a substantial share of the global market," Robinson told The Daily last week.

While Robinson would not comment on the exact amount universities like McGill could receive if they sign on to the deal, he did say that the deal "has the potential to be a significant source of revenue."

But Turk thinks that this sort of attitude is a dangerous one.

"When Universitas 21 courses go on line, what assurances are there for quality?" he asked. "What assurances are there that universities will actually be writing the course material, rather than just lending their names? What happens when curriculum doesn't fit into the vision of Thomson Corp.?"

"Thomson wants to use universities like McGill to market its products, just like the way Nike hires Michael Jordan to sell its shoes. I can't think why a reputable university would let its name be used in this way," he said.

In recent weeks, the University of Toronto announced that it would not be signing on to the Thomson deal.

Sheldon Levy, U of T's vice-president of government and institutional relations, told The Daily last week that the university was not ready to be a part of any global e-learning initiatives for the time being, but would not elaborate further.

"We have not come to the conclusion that a partnership with Thomson Corp. is in the best interests of our university. We did not want to bind ourselves in a formal contractual way," said Levy.

Although Shapiro spoke positively about the potential deal, he referred to the possible dangers of hastily jumping into such an endeavour.

"There is a general search for revenue from universities, but we need to do it without undermining our own values. If we aren't careful, we could be left rich, but without any value," he said.

Shapiro did point out, however, that the proposal with Thomson includes setting up a quality control group which would include representatives from different universities, and would act to approve all course materials put forth by Thomson.

Universitas 21 was formed in 1998 with the aim to "leverage the reputation, resources and experience of its members on behalf of corporate partners." The consortium includes the University of British Columbia, University of Toronto, the University of Glasgow, and Peking University.

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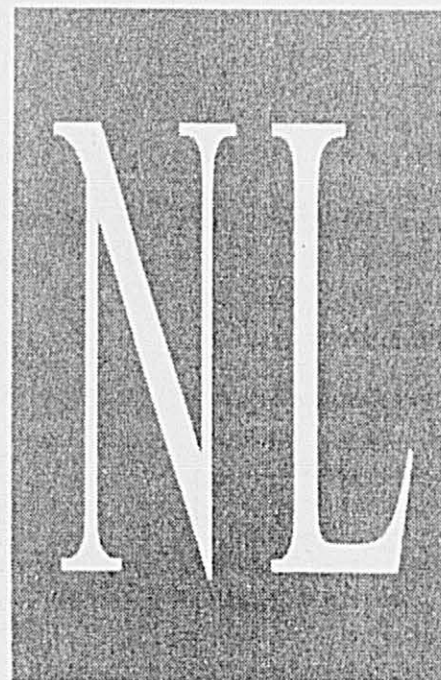
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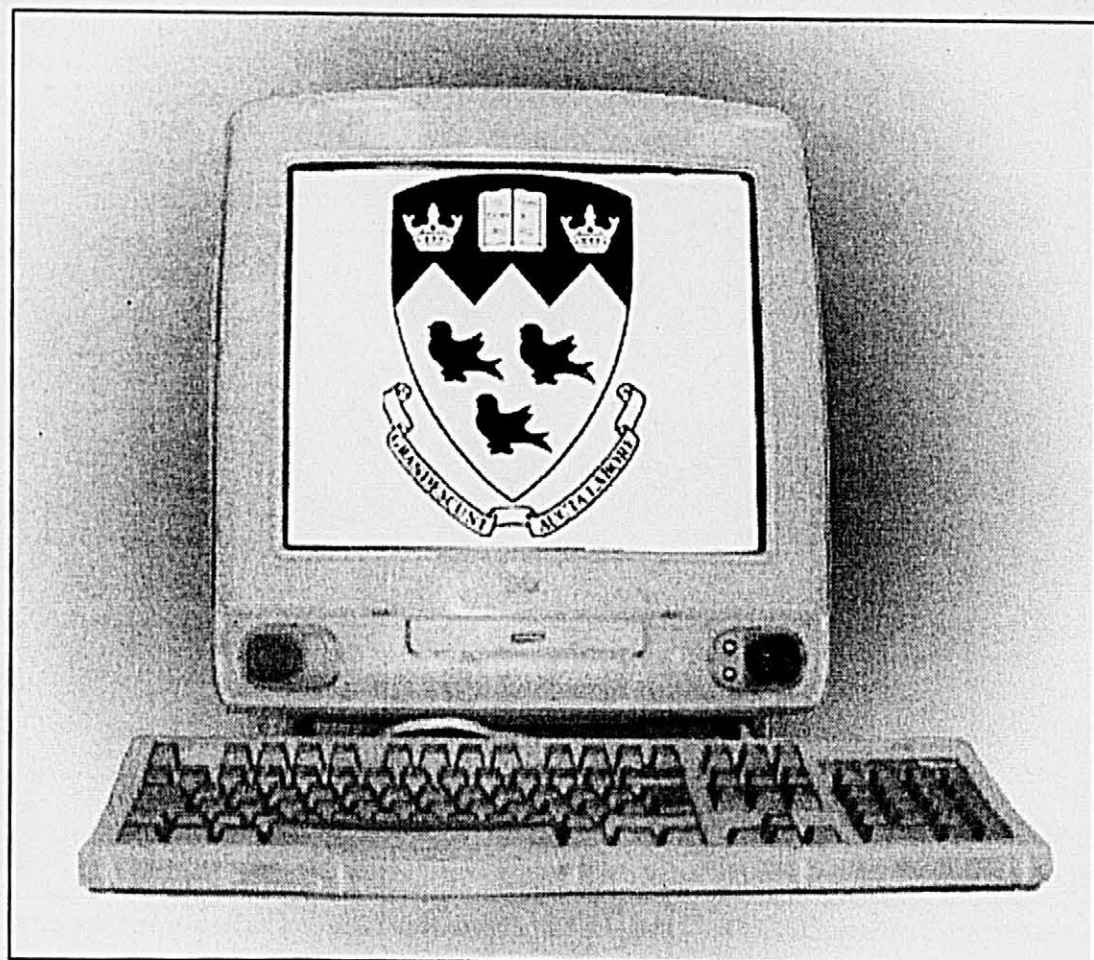
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news-briefs


**THE RHODES LESS TRAVELED: MCGILL'S
LATEST RHODES SCHOLAR PREPARES FOR
THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME**

This fall, fourth year medical student Astrid Christofferson-Deb will be attending Oxford University as McGill's latest Rhodes Scholar. Christofferson-Deb plans to study politics, philosophy, and economics once at Oxford, but her long-term goal is to work as a doctor in developing countries.

"It's the most natural expansion of wanting to help others," she said.

Christofferson-Deb has already completed medical work in northern Quebec, India, and in a refugee camp in Croatia, and says she prefers those environments to an urban medical setting.

"You feel like you're starting something, not just maintaining the status quo," she said.

While at McGill, Christofferson-Deb has held leadership roles with the WHO Health Assembly at McGill Model United Nations Conference and United Nations Student Association. She also has been a member of the Faculty of Medicine admissions committee, and last year received the YMCA Young Woman of Distinction Award. In 1999 she founded the Bedtime Stories program at the Montreal Children's Hospital, in which volunteers read to patients on a regular basis. In addition to her extracurricular and volunteer efforts, Christofferson-Deb has also been a lifeguard, a swim instructor, and a member of the Masters' swim team at McGill.

Christofferson-Deb feels that her community involvement was her biggest selling point in applying for the Rhodes Scholarship. "I went to a school run by Marcellines, and so from kindergarten on, volunteering once or twice a week was incorporated into our academic schedules. We had a commitment to others to fulfill," she said.

Christofferson-Deb returned to Montreal last Monday, following trips to Vancouver and Denmark, for the first time since learning of her scholarship. Despite her achievements, Christofferson-Deb remains modest. "If anyone has made sacrifices, it's been my family. They're my managers."

The Rhodes Scholarship, one of the world's most prestigious academic awards, covers all expenses for up to three years of study at Oxford University. It is given every year to eleven Canadians and sixty students from other countries. Christofferson-Deb is McGill's 116th Rhodes Scholar, and one of two selected this year in Quebec.

— Holly Beck

**LIBERAL CALLS ON ONTARIO PREMIER TO
CONDEMN CAMPUS POLITICIANS**

An Ontario MPP is calling on the province's premier to withdraw a statement of support by campus Progressive Conservatives for a professor who com-

pared Montreal Massacre vigils to a Ku Klux Klan propaganda campaign.

Marie Bountrogianni, a Liberal MPP from Hamilton, recently demanded that Premier Mike Harris condemn the University of Toronto's PC Campus Association and Ontario PC Campus Association for their shows of support for Charles Rackoff.

Rackoff is a University of Toronto professor who circulated an e-mail on Dec. 5, 2000, denouncing vigils for the 14 women killed by Marc Lepine at Montreal's L'Ecole Polytechnique in 1989.

In a letter to the premier, Bountrogianni wrote that releasing a statement of support for Rackoff re-ignited a "horrific issue" and was "tantamount to endorsement."

"If you do not take action against these elected representatives of the Ontario PC Party, it will appear as if the PC party condones violence against women," she wrote.

So far, the premier's office hasn't taken any action.

The campus Conservatives, however, are steadfast in their support for Rackoff's message. While decrying the professor's

parallel between special interest groups and the Ku Klux Klan, the two associations shared disapproval of the political nature of the vigil.

Rackoff wrote in his email last December, "It is obvious that the point of this is not to remember anyone. The point is to use the deaths of these people as an excuse to promote the feminist extreme left-wing agenda."

Two other University of Toronto political associations have entered the war of words provoked by Rackoff's criticism of the annual memorial. The campus

Liberals and New Democrats have jointly condemned the Progressive Conservative associations.

"The expression of solidarity was senseless. It did nothing in terms of stopping violence against women or remembering them. What it served to do is promote the view that Prof. Rackoff's comments are acceptable and tolerable, and perhaps worse, that there is some truth to them," said John Burnett, University of Toronto Liberal president.

—by Naureen Shameem, *The Varsity*

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New Deal with Coke Finally Nearing Completion

*McGill pushes for campus-wide cola deal,
but student groups holding back*

BY SIMON RABINOVITCH
The McGill Daily

If university administrators get their way, McGill's campus will soon be placed tightly in the grip of Coca-Cola, despite last year's referendum in which students turned out in record numbers to reject a similar deal.

Despite a promise by McGill administrators to respect last year's referendum results, they are currently looking to ink a contract with Coke that will give the cola giant a strong foothold as the university's dominant beverage supplier.

Holding up the administration's plans are the SSMU and the Engineering Undergraduates Society. Both groups are reticent to sign on to any deal that resembles the one rejected by students in the referendum.

Alan Charade, McGill's Director of Ancillary Services, is convinced, however, that the tentative arrangement hammered out with Coke this time around will address the main concerns discussed last year. To begin with, he believes that because the new Coke deal will not be exclusive, many of the students' fears will be allayed.

"We were told about a year ago that a full exclusive arrangement was not what the community would accept and now we're abiding by that position and we're saying, 'OK, it will not be a fully exclusive arrangement,'" said Charade.

He also realizes that secrecy surrounding last year's proposed deal was a major sticking point for students. That in mind, he says, the new arrangement with Coke will be more transparent. Members of the university community will be able to view the document, provided they sign confidentiality agreements that prohibit the release of information about the deal. Student leaders and campus newspapers will be prevented by McGill and Coke from divulging any aspect of the beverage deal.

Under the contract now on the table, Coke would have control over 80 per cent of the beverage space on campus, while the remaining 20 per cent would be reserved for competitive products. Charade laments the loss of revenue for McGill in pulling back from giving Coke a perfect monopoly.

"Whatever we do in this round will be far less attractive financially than in the initial round. Exclusivity has a price tag that companies are willing to pay for. This arrangement is diluting that exclusivity, and thus it dilutes the financial benefits."

As Charade acknowledges, however, the possibility of a campus-wide beverage deal is entirely contingent on whether or not SSMU and EUS decide to partake in it. If either one of the two student associations elects not to throw its hat in with the university, he admits that the arrangement with Coca-Cola will be quite fractured and perhaps even fall apart.

Kevin McPhee, SSMU's VP Operations



Coke talks still sputtering along

and Finances, is still mulling over various options for the the students' society and is not sure that the student body would be pleased with the proposal that McGill is making. He feels that while the 80-20 split for beverage supplies is not technically exclusive, many people would still see it as exclusive. He does not want to be rushed into such an arrangement, but is also afraid that students might lose out if the SSMU does not get a piece of McGill's revenues generated by the Coke deal.

"It worries me that they're obviously making money off this or going to be heading to an agreement where they will be making money off this and the student groups and the students that actually buy the Cola products aren't getting anything," said McPhee.

Before signing on to any beverage deal, McPhee wants to be certain that the students' society's decision is in keeping with the spirit of last year's referendum results. In spite of the 56.4 per cent of students casting valid ballots who voted against the cold beverage agreement last year, McPhee says that the meaning of these numbers is still up for interpretation.

The question asked students whether they supported an exclusive deal for the university as a whole. McPhee thinks it is unclear whether students were opposing the campuswide nature of the arrangement or its exclusivity. He wants SSMU's judicial board to render a decision on the matter.

"One of the things we have to do is get clarification first on what the question solidly meant, what did that question say we can't do," he said. "Once we get that we can start making propositions to council

about the future of cold beverages."

Meantime, EUS President Anjali Mishra heads up the other student association preventing McGill from moving ahead in its plans. She is particularly concerned about the potential negative consequences of the arrangement that Coke and the university have worked out. Although she is not opposed to having Coke as the EUS beverage provider, she said she considered McGill's most recent offer entirely unacceptable. When she found that the university's proposal did not allow for enough disclosure of information and the administration consistently refused to make any amendments, Mishra broke off talks with the school and has since met directly with representatives of Coke.

"The whole idea of having a student council is that you can discuss things before you get into them," she said. "Not being able to discuss a deal basically means that we won't be able to sign it."

Regardless of which company the EUS settles on as its beverage supplier, Mishra makes very clear the sort of arrangement that her student association would like to see. She wants prices to be set for the extent of the contract and would reject outright demands for an anti-defamation clause, quotas or any exclusive advertising guarantee. So long as McGill insists on having a deal with Coke that cannot be openly discussed by student councils or debated within the university community, she believes the exact nature of the agreement will remain cloaked and that many more dangers abound.

"I hope McGill takes the time to think this through before they set themselves up to something which can be disadvantageous to them."

LE FRANÇAIS, PARLONS-EN.

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Seating is limited. The conference
will be held in French.

This activity is being organized as part
of the commission's conference program.

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Second MSF Opt-Out Period Underway

SSMU promises more publicity for cash-grab

BY ALEXANDRA CLEMENCE
News Reporter

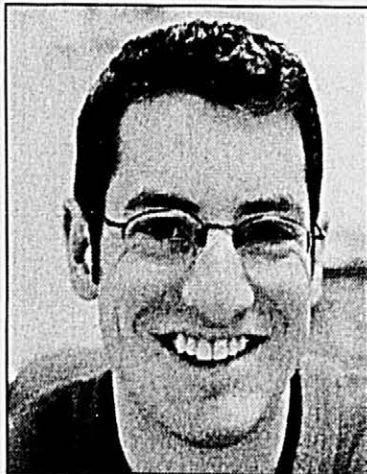
Undergraduate students will have the chance to reclaim \$38 in student society fees this week, as the second opt-out period for the two-year old McGill Student Fund kicks off today.

The MSF was introduced as a new fee last year and provides funding to three university outlets: library improvements, Shatner Building renovations and a need-based bursary program. However, soon after it was proposed by SSMU during the 1998-1999 school year, the MSF came under close scrutiny by various student groups charging that the areas the fee are intended to support are ostensibly covered by tuition costs.

"These fees are for services that we already pay for."

— Mike Leitold, coordinator of QPIRG's CorpWatch

Mike Leitold, coordinator of QPIRG's Corp Watch working group, was one of a handful of students who occupied SSMU offices in the spring of 1999 to protest the implementation of the new fee. "I really appreciate [the MSF's] goals," said Leitold. "However, I think the thing about the MSF that is less than ideal is that it puts the burden of supplying quality, accessible education back on students," something, he says, the administration and SSMU should be lobbying the government for.



SSMU VP Operations Kevin McPhee

However, SSMU VP Operations Kevin McPhee takes issue with Leitold's claims. "A different point of view would be that we can sit around and wait for the funding to come or we can do something a little more active and make sure that in the meantime our libraries maintain the standards that we require for a quality education." He pointed to the various projects that the fee has funded in order to justify its implementation. New books, periodicals, computers, a 24-hour work-study program and an elevator in the Shatner Building are part of the package the MSF has offered to date, says McPhee. "I think that overall, it is a positive fee."

Yet Leitold insists that these are all things that cash-strapped students are already paying for.

"There is no such thing as a positive fee in a province where you have a tuition freeze. These fees are for services that we already pay for," responds Leitold. He stresses that \$36 can also go a long way for the individual student. "That's food for two weeks. Frankly, we pay enough."

Last September's MSF opt-out period generated heat as SSMU was criticized for insufficiently informing the student body regarding the process. Although Kevin McPhee had promised an advertisement in SSMU's newspaper The McGill Tribune and

"I think that overall, it is a positive fee."

— SSMU VP Operations
Kevin McPhee

a 'minor' poster campaign on campus to publicize the event, by the last day of the opt-out the newspaper announcement had yet to materialize. "There was no ad in the Tribune. It just did not come together. I could not find the ad from last year. Actually, I still can't find it," McPhee later explained.

A small ad ran in The Tribune last week to advertise the opt-out period.

How To Opt Out

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Present your McGill ID between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. in room 1203 (next door to the SSMU Front Desk) of the Student Services Building between January 22-26.

Another New SSMU Fee in the Works

Campus Life Fund would go to a student referendum in March

BY MATTHEW LEVINE
News Reporter

Undergrads can expect to see their fees climb by a couple more bucks next year, thanks to a new student fee that SSMU executives hope to introduce.

According to the execs, full-time students would cough up \$2.85 per semester towards the Campus Life Fund (CLF), while part-time students would pay \$1.40. Executives secure matching funds from administration or alumni, that could bring SSMU an extra \$90,000 a year, they say.

The money would be earmarked for clubs and services that the execs claim they have had difficulty funding. Should SSMU Council give the go-ahead next month, the fee proposal will go to a student referendum during student society elections in March.

"With the CLF, we will have the flexibility and financial wherewithal to fund anyone with a reasonable project, be it clubs, services, department organizations, or even just two or three students with a great idea," said SSMU President Wojtek Baraniak.

He explained that the plan is for the non-opt-outable CLF to replace the existing Special Projects Fund (SPF), which is supposed to help out clubs in need of support for special events. Under the CLF, the stringent rules placed on eligibility for project-funding would also be loosened.

Baraniak pointed to the case of a club that approached SSMU last year, asking for funding to send delegates to an out-of-town conference. Although the group needed just \$500, SSMU

turned them away, because their request did not meet the SPF's eligibility requirements.

Baraniak also said that he is hoping to convince McGill or alumni to provide matching funds that could make the CLF worth as much as four times more than the SPF.

According to some, however, SSMU is already bilking students out of too much money.

"Two dollars? That won't blow a hole in my wallet, but two times 16,000 [McGill's undergraduate population], is a whole lot of money. What are they doing with it all?" asked Billy Chan, a UI Management student.

Erica Weinstein, clubs representative on SSMU Council, said that students should be concerned that SSMU is again asking them for more fees.

"SSMU probably already has enough money to fund these different things, they just don't spend it properly," she said.

She added that she's concerned that the CLF seem like an effort by SSMU to usurp control over how clubs spend their money. "This might be one issue that blows up on them," Weinstein said.

Indeed, that's exactly what's happened twice over the last two years. In a 1999 referendum on the McGill Students' Fund, a \$78 opt-outable fee led to a constitutional challenge, while last year's Cold Beverage Agreement proved divisive and left many students criticizing SSMU's actions.

Baraniak, however, said that there remains plenty of time for debate on the new fund and that nothing is set in stone. "Everything is still at the beginning stages," he said.

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Canada



Chapters Contract May Need to be Reviewed Following Bookstore Woes, Yalovsky says

Campus store comes under fire as Future Shop sets to takeover Chapters Inc.

BY JON BRICKER
The McGill Daily

It's shape up or ship out for Chapters at McGill's bookstore, University administrators warned last week.

The message was delivered at a Senate meeting last Wednesday, after several professors expressed outrage over Chapters' failure to get ahold of many course texts in time for the January text rush. The retail book giant's bad debts and strained supplier relationships led many publishers to stop January shipments to the McGill bookstore, The Daily reported earlier this month.

Wednesday's meeting was followed Thursday by word that retail electronics behemoth Future Shop had just become the front-runner in the race to buy Chapters Inc. The Future Shop's bid of \$200-million in cash and stock options, one-upped an offer from Trilogy Enterprises, an upstart headed by merger mogul Gerry Schwartz and wife, Indigo Books CEO Heather Reisman.

No matter what lies ahead for Chapters Inc., McGill professors and administrators said Wednesday that something needs to be done about the campus bookstore's man-

agement by Chapters Campus Bookstores, in which Chapters Inc. holds a controlling interest.

Asked if the University was considering terminating its contract with Chapters, Vice-Principal Administration and Finance Morty Yalovsky told Senate that he has already asked Chapters to provide a plan to address problems experienced this month.

"In the long-term, we will consider our plan of action at the end of the semester. We have the option to serve notice to Chapters, at which point we could look for other partners or revert to [running the bookstore ourselves]," said Yalovsky. He added that a no-assignment clause in McGill's agreement with Chapters would let McGill back out of the deal in the event of a change in Chapters' ownership.

English professor and bookstore committee chair Kerry McSweeney also delivered a damning report of Chapters' effort to get course texts on bookstore shelves in time for the winter semester. According to the final numbers, only 70 per cent of requisitioned texts were at the bookstore on the first day of classes. While several late arrivals were blamed on professors issuing orders too late, many books never arrived

because the McGill bookstore was on credit hold with its suppliers, McSweeney said.

"It's outrageous that McGill professors and students are being used as pawns in a fight between publishers and Chapters," said McSweeney. "McGill is not getting from Chapters anything like the quality of service promised."

But according to Chapters Campus Bookstores President Jeff Swift, the process of dealing with problems at the bookstore has already begun. He said that administrators have asked bookstore management for a plan that details how it will avoid future supply problems of the sort seen this month.

"We're working very closely with administration to improve services," said Swift.

Management's restructuring plan, he said, will be delivered early next month.

In the meantime, the Future Shop's bid to buy Chapters came as a surprise, with insiders at McGill and at Chapters unwilling to guess what a takeover might mean for the campus bookstore.

"I can't speculate," said Swift. "But there should be no changes with McGill and the bookstore. We have contractual



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obligations to McGill."

He added that Future Shop's expertise in electronics retailing might mean a great opportunity to start selling computer hardware and software at the campus bookstore.

"I see it as a great fit," said Swift.

McSweeney, however, said McGill should be more concerned about whether new owners would honour the service commitment that Chapters made when it arrived at McGill.

"One wonders if, under new owners,

Chapters is going to continue to pay attention to the campus bookstore," he said.

Future Shop is expected to mail an official offer to stockholders in mid-February. Although the book chain's purchase is not yet a done deal, Chapters CEO Larry Stevenson, who has spent several weeks trying to convince shareholders to reject the Trilogy bid, praised the Future Shop's offer on Thursday, leading insiders to suggest that the Future Shop's offer is likely to be accepted.

Quebec MNA Pushing for Guaranteed Minimum Income

Action Démocratique's Dumont says something must be done about poverty

BY PIERRE-OLIVIER SAVOIE
Quebec Bureau Chief, CUP

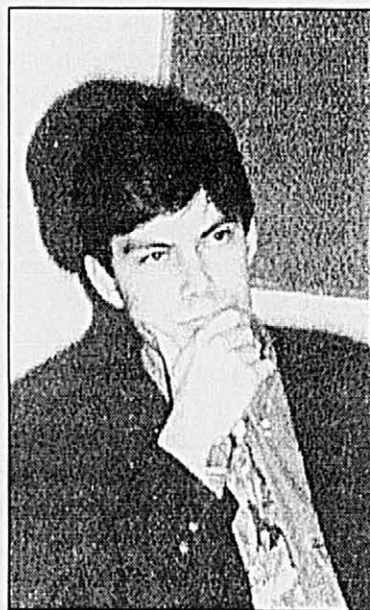
The leader of a provincial third party has presented a bill to Quebec's National Assembly calling for a study into a guaranteed minimum income for Quebecers.

Last month, Action Démocratique du Québec leader Mario Dumont presented his bill, which proposes setting up a committee to study the inception of a "minimum citizenship revenue" and suggests guidelines for its implementation.

In an interview with Canadian University Press, Dumont said that his party was considering a guaranteed minimum income long before the federal Liberals announced last month that they were considering such a program.

"Curiously, all the rumours about the federal government's intentions occurred almost in sync with the presentation of my bill," Dumont said. "But we've been talking about it since 1994. It's in our program."

While Dumont stands alone as an Action Démocratique du Québec representative in the National Assembly and might not even be able to bring his bill to debate, he stresses the importance of talking about the abolition of poverty.



*Action Démocratique leader
Mario Dumont*

"It helps bring out a debate, even force the debate, when the government would probably prefer to keep a lid on this issue," Dumont said.

In another attempt to put poverty on the province's agenda, on Nov. 22 three Quebec politicians, including Dumont, presented a 215,000 signature petition to the National Assembly calling for an act that addresses poverty in Quebec.

The petition was started two years ago by the Collective for an Act on the Elimination of Poverty.

In an issue of the National Post last month, columnist David Frum wrote that the federal government's rumoured plan about guaranteed minimum income was "just about the worst idea that this government has had - one that will accelerate Canada's trend toward a U.S.-style underclass all our own."

But Dumont thinks that while his minimum citizenship revenue will not only be around the same cost as existing social programs, it will also help remove the stigma attached to receiving welfare.

Consensus reached on Intellectual Property

Profs and Administration agree on most of revised patent policy

BY BEN ERRETT
The McGill Daily

After more than two years of debate and discussion, a revised policy for intellectual property was finally presented to McGill's Senate last week. The document was warmly received by professors and administrators alike, and even its critics commended Vice-Principal Graduate Studies and Research Pierre Belanger for his efforts.

The draft proposal, which will be voted upon at the next meeting, contains many of the changes that academics had wanted. Inventors will now have the right not to commercialize their inventions, and students will be exempt from the policy unless they are co-inventors with professors.

"We've spelled out the objectives of the policy more clearly in this document," Belanger said. "We want to foster research at the University, serve the public interest and contribute to the socio-economic well-being of Quebec and Canada. Only in one of our objectives do we say 'if anyone makes a buck, we want a piece.'"

Professor Myron Frankman said that the advisory committee on the policy, which he headed, was generally pleased with the

report. One of the few problems that the committee still had was over distance learning. Frankman said that the committee had concerns over the wording of the passage, which states that the University would have "a non-exclusive, royalty-free, irrevocable, indivisible and non-transferable license" for internal use of invention. Frankman was concerned over how "internal use" would be defined in distance learning. As well, the fact that the distance education software could be used by the university long after its inventor leaves the university was a cause for concern for some.

McGill Association of University Teachers President Bruce Shore wondered how the distance education policy might fit into McGill's long term plans.

"We know that Universitas 21 seeks to commercialize distance education," Shore said. "If we are concerned about protecting the quality of the McGill brand, this house must make sure that [non-transferable policy] remains strong."

In response, Belanger said that distance learners would still be McGill students.

"We can't take someone's text and copy it - we're not saying that. I don't think we were thinking Universitas 21, and I don't think the rights would transfer."

Controversial Posters Pop Up in Law Building

Posters depicting Hitler said to be experiment by their creator

BY DAMIEN BUTVICK
News Reporter

Some law students at McGill were left angered and bewildered recently when ambiguous, potentially offensive posters were found on the walls within their faculty's Chancellor Day Hall building.

The posters contained a picture of Adolph Hitler in addition to the caption, "A True Author of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights," and a quote by Nietzsche that read, "Whoever fights monsters should take care that he does not become a monster himself." The posters were pulled down almost immediately upon being noticed.

In an interview with The Daily, the person who put up the posters - a male law student requesting not to be identified - explained that the poster was meant not as a form of neo-Nazi propaganda but as an experiment with which to test the reaction it would produce.

"This was really a test of the reaction to ambiguous or challenging speech," he explained.

"Obviously, it wasn't a message for glorifying Hitler or Nazism. I concocted something that was open to multiple interpretations. It's interesting how quickly the reaction was to take [the posters] down."

The law student admitted that he did not believe, drawing from one possible

interpretation of the poster, that Hitler was a "champion of human rights." He did, however, remark that it was Hitler's horrific policies that motivated the penning of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and that, in this respect, he could be perceived as being responsible for the document.

Despite stating that his opinion is not important, the student said that in fact he thinks of Hitler as "a scum." Nevertheless, he asserted that the main point was the reaction his posters received.

"This was really a test of the reaction to ambiguous or challenging speech."

"I did this out of curiosity and to understand more about the law school. It was interesting to see that there was such a rapid silencing of speech... and by the students as well, not just the building manager."

Several law school students felt that this was an inappropriate form for provoking intellectual debate. François Tanguay-

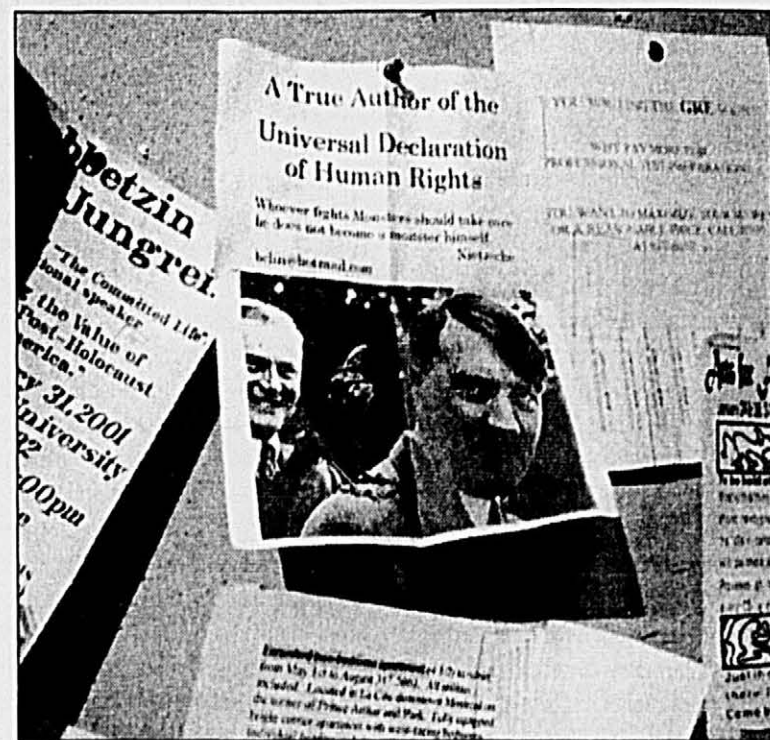
Renaud, a third-year law student, thought that the posters were put up in poor taste and that their ambiguity was counteractive to the goal of generating discussion.

"Whether or not the posters were put up to get a point across, it was done in bad taste," Tanguay-Renaud said. "If you want to generate discussion, why don't you put your question in a clear fashion? Why the secret? [The posters are] just there gratuitously... there's no discussion."

Tanguay-Renaud also added that it was also inappropriate that the person who put up the posters maintained their anonymity.

"If you want to raise debate," he said, "then don't hide behind your poster. If you want to stimulate discussion [with others], and they don't know who to discuss with, then only you will have the satisfaction of knowing how they reacted. This person should have tried to put himself in other people's shoes before he did this."

The controversial posters found in Chancellor Day Hall bothered other law students, including Jeff King, in his second year with the faculty. He drew attention to the quote by Nietzsche, saying that to share such scepticism, "one would be committed to believing that people could not genuinely want to help others... It seems like the posterer had an unjustified paranoia regarding such people, and one that has



Offensive posters found on the walls within Chancellor Day Hall

been suppressed until it burst out in an entirely tasteless, offensive, misleading and cowardly way. I think that is by far the most charitable interpretation that can be offered for an immature stunt."

Margaret Baratta, building director for the Faculty of Law, said that for putting up any sign in Chancellor Day Hall, the deputy building director must approve the sign's

content and issue a stamp. The poster's creator admitted that he did not attempt to get the posters authorized, and it was the students in the faculty who quickly acted to remove the posters from the walls.

"They were put up without our knowing and they were taken down without us knowing about it," Baratta said.

Website Makes a Market of Students

Campus-tv.com hopes to be coming to a campus near you

BY LAROUX PEOPLES
News Reporter

Two innovative students from the University of Alberta have created a pair of websites that they hope will make life easier for students across the country, providing them with free space for advertising events and a chance to make themselves known to businesses looking to hire.

And while the efforts of these two internet entrepreneurs, Mel Kuncio and his partner Kingsley Leung, seem noble, some people are questioning whether the benefits from such website-based projects really do trickle down to the average student.

Kuncio and Leung developed www.MarketPenetration.net as their first website. It houses information about student clubs and school events, and features exceptional individual students. All of the content is written by students.

Their newest project is www.CAMPUS-TV.com, which will build on the MarketPenetration site by adding video and audio streaming to enable the use of live student web-cams and broadcasts and the display of short films. The plan is to have

www.CAMPUS-TV.com up and running by next year.

For Kuncio, MarketPenetration.net has proved its success in servicing students, paving the way for the new website. Since its inception three years ago, he and Leung have used MarketPenetration.net to forge links with student clubs and associations throughout Canada, allowing information about student activities and campus events to be posted for free.

"It's a way for students to get the word out of what's happening out there and to inform businesses about what students are doing to show that there is some real value in these activities that are happening," said Kuncio. "University is not just about partying and having fun. A lot of the movers and shakers throughout Canada that are involved in student clubs are key people that are going to be in the workforce whether it be one year to four years from now."

"We came up with the idea that we could just take a normal camera and videotape some of the events and edit it ourselves and stream a two minute clip or an interview with a speaker."

The amount of television programming on the site is as yet undetermined,

Market Penetration is proud to present

www.CAMPUS-TV.com



penetrating your campus
winter 2000

Ad for Campus-TV.com

however. The website sponsors of MarketPenetration are the types of high-powered corporations that Kuncio thinks some students want exposure to. The list includes General Motors of Canada, Canada Trust and Universal Pictures and Music, as well as the government of Alberta. Although these company names appear impressive, the question of their

control over website content is troubling, and Kuncio is only vague in outlining the extent of their powers.

Sheryl Hamilton is an assistant professor in Art History and Communication studies at McGill and she is a specialist in cyberculture. Hamilton thinks the role of the website's sponsors in determining what is displayed is something that Kuncio and Leung need to think more about. Furthermore, she explains that the readings from counters measuring the number of hits on a website can be misleading, and that the sponsors may eventually demand more concrete proofs of the site's popularity. "MarketPenetration's sponsors are probably still enthusiastic because the site is new but they are eventually going to want to see some sort of measurement of the site's audience," she said.

According to Hamilton, internet counters can give the number of hits a site receives, but most cannot tell who has been on or what they have been doing there. "For example a counter might be recording a staff member of MarketPenetration merely logging on to check the site. Even if students are logging on, most counters won't be able to tell whether they are really

logging onto the site or they arrived by accident and immediately log off."

Hamilton also wonders how many students will actually be able to access live video streaming that will come with Campus-TV.com.

"How many students have access to fast enough computers at home to download the television aspect of the site? This brings up the issue of where students are going to be accessing the site, in the computer lab or at home?"

Since MarketPenetration.net, and CAMPUS-TV.com when it is developed, are committed to displaying information created by students at large, the issue of content regulation, or lack thereof, is also important. Kuncio and Leung have elected to take a very liberal stance on the matter.

"I guess besides full onslaught porn, the idea is to keep it as open as possible," said Kuncio. "There might be editing for length. We haven't come to [making up a policy on] that yet. Obviously we wouldn't publish anything defamatory to the student population as a whole.... Right now our content has more to do with interpreting student activities, but we would promote and publish instances of student protest."

Provincial Tax Initiative Seeks to Attract Profs to Quebec Schools

But experts wonder if there are better ways to combat the brain drain

BY JON BRICKER
The McGill Daily

Eligibility for new, far-reaching provincial tax deductions will attract more professors to Quebec and go a long way to combatting the so-called brain drain, according to finance ministry officials and McGill's own principal.

The initiative to make expatriate professors and those from outside of Canada eligible for new tax deductions was announced last June. But it became the subject of discussion across the country just last week, when the provincial initiative was the subject of a National Post cover story.

"This is going to be a very helpful initiative in some areas," McGill Principal Bernard Shapiro told The Daily on Thursday.

Shapiro said that the new tax deductions have already helped McGill attract some professors who might otherwise have gone to teach in the U.S.

"When you're trying to attract people from jurisdictions where they can get better salaries, this gives them more incentive to consider McGill," he explained.

And in a release issued on the province's website, finance ministry officials said they too were confident that the tax breaks would help combat a major obstacle that Quebec universities face in recruiting qualified professors.

"Quebec universities are finding it hard to recruit professors in the sciences, engineering, finance, health, new information and communications technologies sectors, as international competition to recruit in these sectors is especially keen. Moreover, a number of foreign candidates have the skills being sought," reads the release.

The new policy makes professors who have previously left Canada and those arriving at Quebec schools from elsewhere in the world eligible for the income tax deductions for five years. Professors from within Canada do not qualify for the deductions. The policy also states that only professors in "the sciences, engineering, health, or new information and communications technologies" will qualify for deductions.

But while the province is singing the praises of the initiative, others say the policy is misguided.

David Robinson, the Canadian Association of University Teacher's policy director, was among those criticizing the Quebec plan last week.

"It seems like a pretty blunt instrument," he said. "I don't see how a quick fix like this is going to deal with the bigger issue of how do we get more people into the university system."

According to Robinson, most professors look at more than just income tax levels when deciding where to take up work. "There's a variety of things faculty look for. One is salary and how much you can make, but if you'll be sitting in a dilapidated building or the university library can't afford to subscribe the journals you need, or there aren't any good lab facilities, [tax breaks] are not a good option in the long run. I think Quebec would do better to invest directly in the universities."

Robinson also said that, by focusing only on professors who teach science, engineering, medicine, and information technology, the policy shows that the province is not interested in addressing faculty renewal problems in the arts.

"This seems very much like an attempt by the province to steer what the

universities are teaching," he said. "What gets left behind are areas where most students are studying right now - social sciences and the humanities."

But Shapiro said that, by allocating more of McGill's flexible resources to neglected academic realms, it can offset the

"I don't see how a quick fix like this is going to deal with the bigger issue of how do we get more people into the university system."

province's penchant for favouring investment in scientific realms.

"My sense is that this is where the province has a particular interest," he said. "But it results in the need for us to think internally at the university about how to support other programs. I think we'll find ways of dealing with that."

What's important, Shapiro said, is that the province is working to combat the trend of Canadian professors leaving Canada to work in the U.S., a shift that has been affectionately dubbed Canada's "brain drain." Universities across the country will be hard-pressed to fill the thousands of faculty positions that need to be filled in the next few years, he explained.

"It is definitely a problem," said Shapiro. "I keep on finding Canadians working elsewhere and I keep coming across people who we're trying to hire, accepting other offers."

But Robinson thinks too much has been made of professors turning down opportunities to work in Canada. The statistics have been manipulated to paint a misleading picture, he said.

"I don't think that there is a brain drain from Canada to the U.S. We do have a brain trickle in certain areas, but it's certainly not motivated by high taxes."

Universities and provincial governments do need to commit to a lot of new hiring, he said, "but I don't think a quick fix like the one Quebec is trying, is going to deal with the bigger issue of how do we get more people into the university system."

New Measures Expected to Combat Overcrowded Classes

More Arts courses will have to be offered during less desirable time slots, administrators say

BY PHILLIP TODD
News Reporter

With many Faculty of Arts classes bursting at the seams, administrators have decided it's high time something should be done about it.

And the solution to the problem may mean that, come next September, students and professors in the Faculty of Arts may no longer have the luxury of scheduling all their courses during the popular class hours of 11 am and 3 pm.

That's because new measures to combat growing Arts class sizes will likely include mandatory capping of all classes, establishing a new system of assigning classrooms that will encourage professors to schedule classes during less busy time slots, and limiting the number of 200-level courses that students can take over the course of their degree.

According to Associate Arts Dean Enrica Quaroni, those measures are necessary to address the problem of insufficient classroom space.

"There are not enough large rooms to

accommodate large classes," she said. "We all love to teach and go to class in the middle of the day, but when you have constraints with the number of rooms available, then we can't all do that," Quaroni said.

"We all love to teach and go to class in the middle of the day, but when you have constraints with the number of rooms available, then we can't all do that."

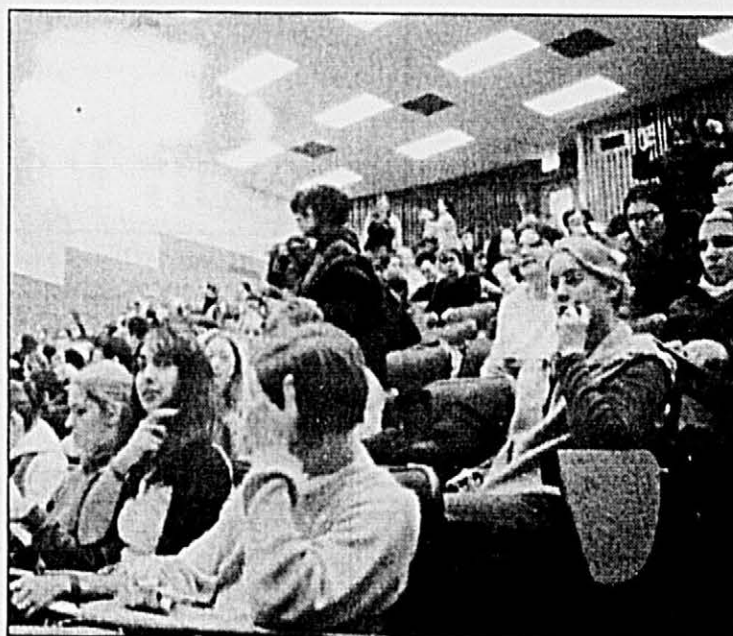
She said that, beginning in September, all courses will have registration capped to ensure that there are no more students registered than seats in the classroom. As well, if too many large classes are booked for one time slot, or if a professor desires a larger

number of students in his or her class, the professor will be asked to choose a less busy time of day to schedule the course.

"If a professor comes to us and says 'I really want to have [more] kids in that class, then we say to him 'all right, then you teach it at eight-thirty or at three-thirty.' It will be a negotiation type of process and I think we'll be able to accommodate the majority - not all - but the majority of the problematic courses," said Quaroni.

Class sizes were widely reported to be getting out of control in the fall, a problem that came to a head in November when a number of students in a Latin American Politics course were forced to write a midterm standing up. A group of the students organized a campaign to deliver letters of protest to the administration.

November also saw Senate's Committee on Student Affairs asked to research the broad issue of growing class sizes. The committee is expected to present its findings early next month, as a first step towards amending the McGill Handbook on Student Rights to include guarantees of adequate examination conditions.



Brie O'Keefe

Administrators say something needs to be done about overcrowded classrooms

Meanwhile, Associate Vice-Principal Academic Nicholas De Takacs advised professors who anticipate overcrowded examination conditions in upcoming midterms to be advised that mechanisms are available to ensure proper examination conditions.

"At the moment, the Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Science do register on a first come, first serve basis all courses for which evening midterms are solicited, and they do help in organizing classrooms and class spaces and so on," De Takacs said.

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letters



SNOW-AP WITH A VENGEANCE

Apparently I have been misled. Thank you for pointing out that the over 2000 students that we had at Snow-AP 2001 were actually not enjoying themselves (Hear Hear, Beer! Jan. 15). It was premature of me to assume that because the tent was full to capacity all week long with smiling, happy-looking students that they were actually genuinely having fun. Now I realize after your unbiased sampling of your five or six friends moping in the corner, that indeed people did hate our event.

It's quite a shame that the single band that you chose to see was coincidentally the only one to demand that they use their own sub-standard sound system. Perhaps if you would have taken the time to catch one of the other 30 performers, you might have heard something more pleasing to your cool, hip undiscriminating ears. This year we tried to appeal to different people by offering a wide range of musical styles from artists from McGill, Montreal and even from out-of-town. It probably surprises you that several of our bands have been offered future gigs solely based on their stellar performances at Snow-AP.

Apparently, you seem to think that Snow-AP was thought up quickly on a whim. I'm willing to bet that my six co-coordinators who slaved over the logistics of the event for two months would disagree with you. If you really want something like this indoors, why don't you try hanging out at Gert's?

It perplexes me how the nice folks at The Daily could be persuaded to assign an amateurish writer to write an article on an event that you obviously would be biased against from the outset. Since you so quaintly explained how you're much too cool to be bothered attending any event with "SSMU" or "McGill" in the title, why did you accept the job? Did you set out to write a self-serving autobiographical sketch or did it just turn out that way? Did you ever

think about sharpening up your journalistic chops by actually interviewing some of the people involved in planning the event?

Whatever your reasoning, you did manage to get a few things right in your article. You keenly observed that an event with the word "PUB" in the title exists primarily to serve beer. I only wish that we served you more of it so that you would choke on your own vomit.

Daniel Berkal

OogaBooga Productions

Head Coordinator SNOW-AP 2001

DAILY TRAVEL BUDGET ALREADY BLOWN

I'd just like to commend Brett Story for her outstanding photo essay on Papua New Guinea. I don't know how the Daily could afford to send him there, but why not do it on a weekly basis? Next week: the Amazon.

Marc Carinci

U2 Political Science

FAUCET DISPLAYS PREJUDICE AND IRRESPONSIBILITY

The Plumber's Faucet, an official publication of the Engineering Undergraduate Society, has often been the center of controversy. Last week's letter by Philippe Gohier related the latest incidents: first a questionably humorous article in the editorial section pinpointing "fat women" and "skinny women" as undesirable, and secondly one of the letters to the editor containing racial slurs. Furthermore, the editorial was placed in a contiguous but more omniscient position than the only article commemorating the Dec. 6th massacre at Polytechnique. In his letter, Philippe Gohier rightfully ascertains that all engineers do not share the views of the Faucet.

In their issue published Jan 19th, the Faucet questions Philippe Gohier's decision to write to the Daily, inviting him instead to include his letter among the salacious and most often fictitious letters to the editor of their own paper. Through the Daily, however, Philippe Gohier's letter reaches the readers who have been alienated by the Faucet - readers who will never see the Faucet editors' meek apology trapped in the folds of their own paper.

The editors of the Faucet claim that it is

Slibel & Lander

Take us to
L.A. with
you, LuLu!

Your forum for all the latest campus scoops

Always your first source for all the campus elections scoops, Slibel is proud to once again be the first to bring you the names of two candidates expected to throw their fezzes into ring for SSMU President. Two current executives, **Jeremy Farrell** and **Clara Péron** are hoping to ride the wave of popularity garnered during their current mandates into a term as president. No word on whether **Kevin McPhee** will also join the race, though his ready-made "More Bungle for Your Buck" platform would surely be a straight ticket to the top job...**The Big Yalovsky** told McGill senators at a meeting last week that if Chapters doesn't start offering better service at the campus bookstore, the university may

exercise a **no-assignment clause** in its contract with Chapters. To find out how you can exercise your own no-assignment clause with the university, just dial up 398-6037 and ask for Morton-Hears-a-Who...

ON TRACK ON CRACK

ON TRACK: Salt. Melts ice on the street, makes corn on the cob taste even better, and destroys expensive footwear! Is there anything this miracle ionic compound can't do?

ON CRACK: Flying Cars. Where are they already? It's 2001. You lied to us, Hollywood, you brazen tramp.

Perhaps their "newly clarified intentions" will be more tasteful.

Anjali Mishra

President

Engineering Undergraduate Society

ATTENTION, DEAN LEUPRECHT

I read with interest SSMU President Wojtek Baraniak's comments about the delayed Shatner renovations in The Daily last week. Although SSMU's lawyer told a judge that the renovations would begin as soon as The Daily-SSMU lease dispute was resolved, Baraniak says "Those were comments made to a judge....I wouldn't place too much emphasis on those comments." In the likely event that Baraniak applies to McGill Law, I would hope that the selection committee takes these remarks into consideration.

Steve Barker

U3 English Literature

Letters and Hyde Parks welcomed at letters@mcgilldaily.com

APATHY RALLY by Channing Rodman

comics@mcgilldaily.com



THE MCGILL DAILY
is dropping writs like
they're going out of style!

The Daily will be holding elections for three Culture Editors on Wednesday, January 24th at 5:30 in Chancellor Day Hall Room 620. To run, you must be a McGill student and Daily staff. Staff is anyone who has contributed 6 stories,

photos or production nights, or 12 hours of other newspaper-related duties, or any combination thereof. Offer not valid in states ending in Z or Q. Please consult your doctor before taking this position.

The Unbearable Lightness of Britney



Thanks to Madonna, I got the sex talk very early on. Quite literally, I was seven. My mother got fed up with my prancing around the house singing all the words to "Like a Virgin," and thought it was high time to sit me down. Needless to say, no one on the playground believed me. The other girls knew better. Sexuality, or whatever we thought it to be, was cool and exciting and forbidden- that was why we revered Madonna- but boys were just gross. There was no need for penises to be involved in sex; that ruined everything.

Almost every pop culture icon I idolized before the age of ten was in one way or another a sex symbol. As a child, I fetishized Debbie Gibson, Tiffany, and Madonna. I did, a couple years later, move to draping my walls with pictures of The New Kids on The Block. But actually, the pin-ups were mostly of "Joey." Looking back, this is probably because he looked the most like a girl. I don't think it's a stretch to say that, before the age of ten, I was not sexually interested in boys. To put it frankly, I was sexually interested in girls.

More information than you need to know? I think not.

Fast forward to 2001. It's a pre-teen idol, it's a porn star, it's Britney Spears! Whatever you want to call her, she's cause for panic and disgust among mainstream media critics. When Eminem was in town a few months ago, a Gazette columnist came to the conclusion that Mathers' rapping "bleed

bitch bleed," was ultimately more "whole-some" than 18-year-old Spears, whom the writer refers to as "an invitation to pedophilia," singing "Hit me baby one more time." Other press accounts don't hesitate to refer to the latest bubblegum craze as a "pedophilia poster child," or "a paragon of adolescent American insipidity and shamelessness... (who) takes her leading role in the pedophilia chic movement seriously."

And she won't find much sympathy from feminists either. What I've gathered from a rather lengthy thread on the subject I've been following at the website for Ms. Magazine, many feminists are singling out Spears as being to blame for an apparent "sexualization of little girls" that is becoming more and more present in contemporary culture.

This is where I get to jump in, as I see something very wrong here. I mean, I'm not going to debate Spears' talent quotient, being as we're all post-pubescent here, and presumably don't care. However, what I will say is that I find the media discourse linking her to pedophilia very disturbing, and see the 'orthodox' feminist argument that Britney Spears-mania has come along to sexualize young girls in order to prepare them for full blown objectification (super-buzzword) in adulthood, to be a weak one.

Firstly, I'm persuaded by the idea that the relationship between media and society is one of give and take, where an icon often appears in response to the needs of a given culture. And don't think it's a stretch to defend the modern music industry, in so far as to say, that it does not work consciously to meet the needs of pedophiles, but instead, has as its subjects the young girls who in fact consume the products.

And what is it that the girls want, dare I even ask?

From my own experience, I've already alluded to the fact that children are extremely narcissistic and sexually curious creatures, and that most pre-pubescent girls are scarcely interested in boys (unless of course, like the members of The Backstreet Boys or NSYNC, they have faces like girls), let alone feel the need to impress them. Further, I'm apt to say that little girls do not process such

"objectification" because they don't realize, until they reach adolescence, that their own sexual desires are not valued by society. My point is that the relationship between pre-pubescent girls and sexual icons such as Britney Spears is misunderstood by adults: girls who wish to imitate the sexual nature of Britney Spears, do so in celebration of themselves.

And why the hell not?

Why, into the third wave now, do I still feel like I have to be making the argument that women don't "ask for it," that a sexually liberated female is not to be equated with an invitation. Ever.

Further, the main assumption that fuels feminists' complaints over "the sexualization of little girls" is that men are sexual predators, and cannot handle their lusty pedophilic nature. I don't deny that this is a problematic issue, being that these practices are still endorsed in today's less than perfect society. But the last time I checked, feminists were supposed to be working toward "freedom," not a philosophy that insults both sexes by essentially dictating that females of all ages should stray from sexual expression because men can't control themselves.

On the other hand, two editors of Ms., in their new book, *Manifesta: Young Women, Feminism, and The Future*, which is a sort of call to arms for the third wave, write that "objectification isn't our biggest problem anymore."

Fittingly, in another chapter, they cite the Barbie doll as standing "as a symbol of the lack of understanding between the (adult feminist) leaders of the girls' movement, and the girls themselves," (i.e. mother takes away sexist doll and child cries...), adding that "the lessening of Barbiephobia finally acknowledges that most girls don't want to be Barbie; they want to use Barbie to explore what they can be." The two then conclude parenthetically: "...Barbie, who spends most of her time naked and shorn, will always be a way for young girls to imagine fucking in numerous positions."

In terms of this generational rift, perhaps Britney Spears should be seen as a similar icon, though only Barbie is the natural blonde.

THE ART DUMMY

Et tu Ralph ?

BY JOHN ORTVED
The McGill Daily

It's a good day today and if you have anything invested in our national conscience you already know why. Stockwell Day took it hard this week, the worst blow coming from the man he used to call 'Daddy'. On Wednesday, Ralph Klein turned on the old provincial treasurer like a hungry mother chimp on her newborn infant, referring to his spending on legal fees as, "obscene." It is the beginning of the end for Stock.

When people close to you start looking at your jugular, a respectful retreat is still a possibility. But when those who made you, the ones who've known you the longest and who opened the doors for your career - when they publicly flay you, it is all over and the bell begins to toll. He will go down like other freaks and abusers of political systems before him, beaten and hacked up by his own money-grubbing constituents, hung upside down in the middle of Red Deer, think Mussolini, or Ceausescu. Even the Congo will be appalled and disgusted.

All this talk of violent ends makes me think back to the schoolyard, possibly the most violent time in anyone's entire life (it also makes me think about Mike Bullard and how unfunny he is, and the scene outside my apartment some days ago where an older man beat a younger once mercilessly about the breasts). The subject actually came up the other day over a round of forties, taco salads and *Law and Order*; it must have been a Wednesday. After a particularly intense Tae Kwon Doe lesson (taught at the gym, not by me), two friends and I exchanged stories of bullying and buggery from our schoolyard days. Seems I was not the only one picked on at a young age, yet I was the only one made to eat dirt.

My parents realized early on, that bul-

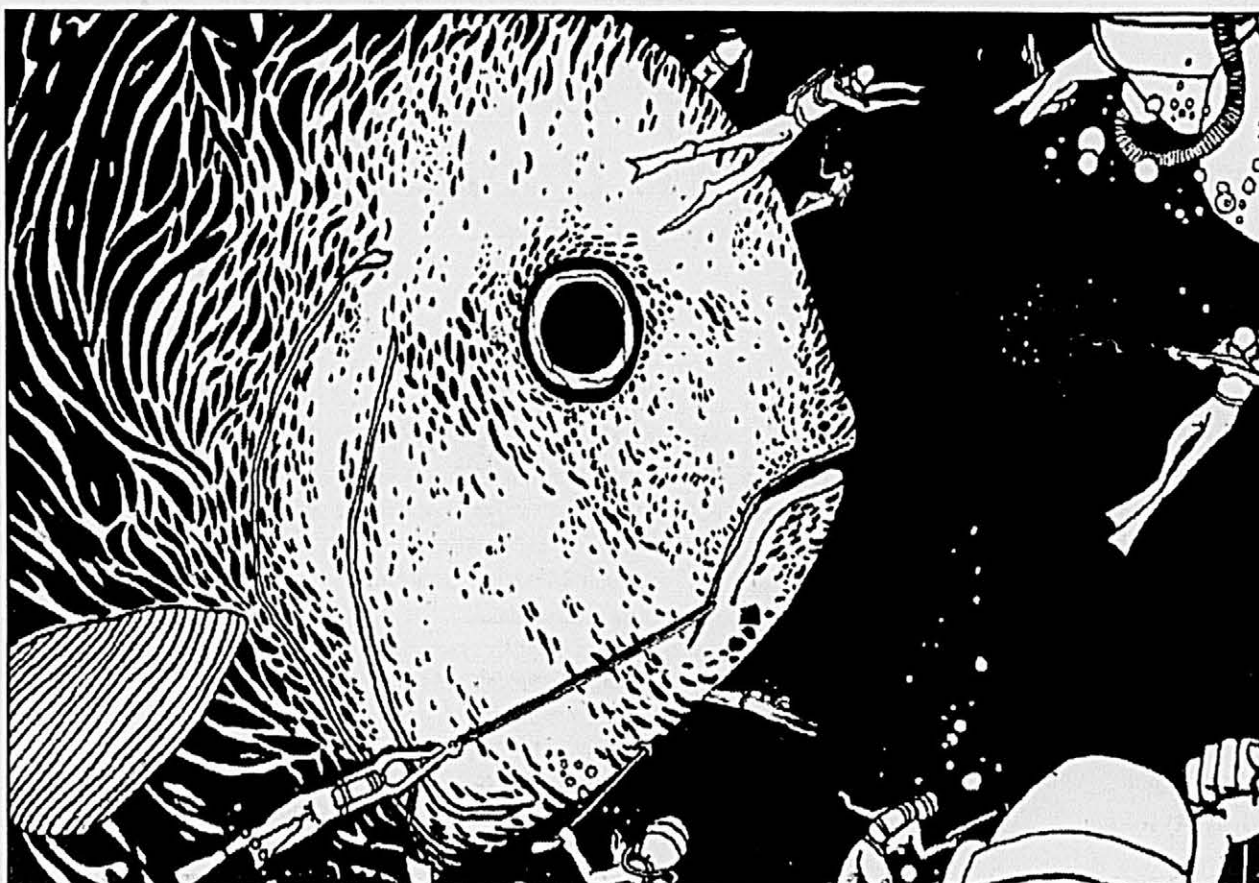
lying would be a problem from my end. I've never been bigger than anyone, yet my mouth has never quite accepted this fact. My parents told me to stick up for myself no matter what and never to go tell the teacher, because that was being a snitch, and snitches get their legs broken. Ah, mom and her crazy rules!

It was on this advice I scrapped my way to my first schoolyard victory; they were bullying me, so I let them have it. Imagine how shocked my parents were when the principal called them in to explain why it was they were teaching me that it was alright to beat up girls.

I remember another fight vividly. I was in the eighth grade locker room and a taller boy was staring me down. He had just pushed me and was waiting for the inevitable push back. Man was he surprised when I head-butted him then ran away (a tip for anyone who is going to attempt this complicated maneuver: pull your head back and feign peaceful protest, pulling your palms upward to shoulder-level, fingers extended, as if you're saying, "I don't wanna fight, I just wanna listen to my Elvis records." This allows some real acceleration from the neck when you slam your head forwards. Also, aim for the nose; the bleeding capacities are almost limitless).

Another time I watched my friend get beat up in a doorway of a restaurant, then he got chased with an extendo-bat. I came out of that one just fine, untouched really.

I guess in the end, I never had it all that bad on the schoolyard. Maybe I was lucky, but maybe it was just good timing. Because bullies always get their come-uppance; sometimes it takes a while, but it always comes. It's taken Day some forty years to receive his beating, but don't think for a second he hasn't had it coming. In his time, I'm betting Stock's dished out a few.



SCRAWLS
by John Paul Koenig

Write for
THE MCGILL DAILY

News Meetings:
MONDAYS 4:00

Culture Meetings:
TUESDAYS 4:00 PM

Mind&Body Meetings:
TUESDAYS 4:30 PM

Photo Meetings:
TUESDAYS 5 PM

EVERYONE WELCOME!
MEETINGS WILL NOW BE HELD IN
THE SHATNER CAFETERIA

"People think they're being taken hostage."

— Nicolas Legault, local activist

A Fence Runs through It

For three days in April, Quebec City residents will be encircled in a high-security zone during hemispheric trade negotiations. As **Zach Dubinsky** reports, many are asking why

For Monique Tremblay, it will be a trying three days. Friends won't be able to visit her, and she probably won't be able to shop for food, she says. Nor does she anticipate being able to shop for food. And if the Quebec City resident wants to get to her job, she'll have to obtain a security pass from police just to leave and re-enter her neighbourhood.

Tremblay lives in St-Jean-Baptiste, one of two neighbourhoods slated to be enclosed within a 4.5-kilometre-long security perimeter when 34 heads of state assemble in Quebec City next April 20 to 22. Along with thousands of her fellow residents, she's none too happy about it.

What's happening in St-Jean-Baptiste isn't entirely unprecedented. After an estimated 50,000 demonstrators overwhelmed Seattle police and successfully halted a World Trade Organization meeting in December, 1999, organizers of controversial high-profile meetings have shored up security and clamped down on protesters.

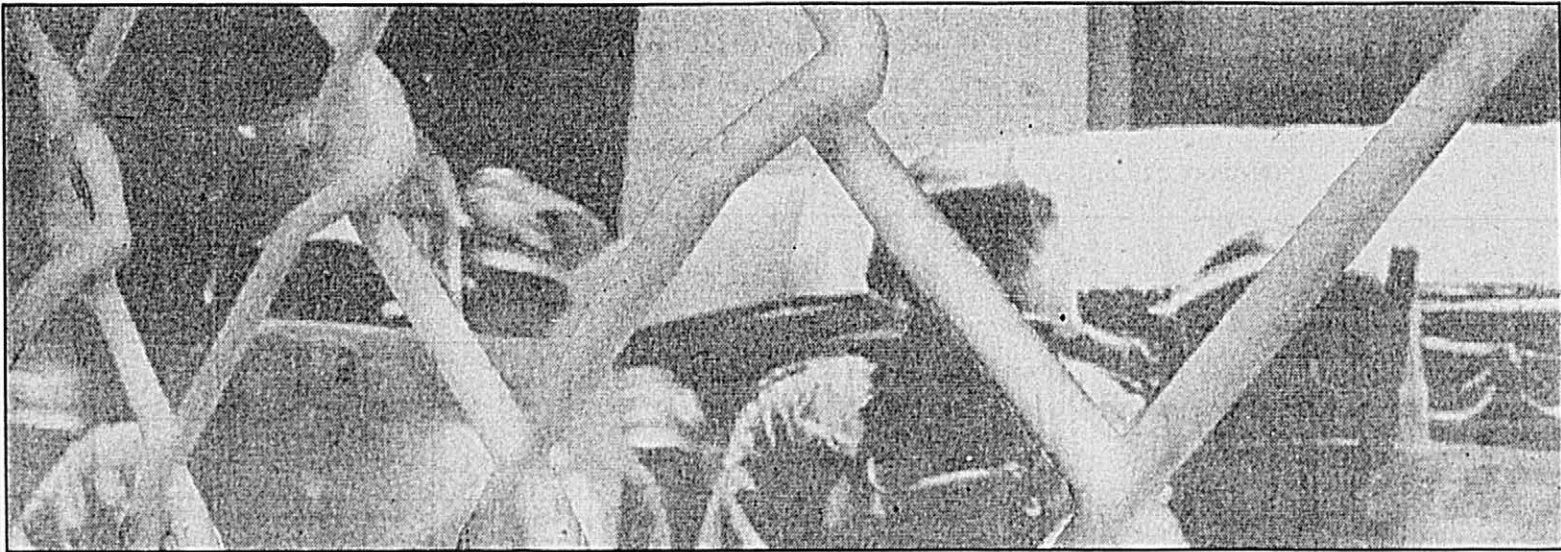
At a gathering of the Organization of American States (OAS) in Windsor last June, for instance, police sealed off a six-block-wide chunk of the city's downtown with 10-foot-high barriers of cement and chain-link fence. Three thousand officers vigilantly guarded the half-dozen entry checkpoints and marched in phalanxes through city streets.

But while Windsor's security zone only affected businesses, in Quebec City, for the first time, residents too will be trapped — nearly 7,500 of them.

HOOLIGANS SETTING FIRES?

Quebec City will be hosting the OAS' Third Summit of the Americas — the first two were in Miami, in 1994, and Santiago, in 1998 — with 8,000 presidents, prime ministers, delegates, and journalists set to show up. Inside the fence, that is.





"I won't be able to get home if I don't have the entry pass."

"We're not in favour of creating a war zone."

"They're trying to paint all activism as potential terrorism."

"We're certainly going to fight this thing."

"People are very angry about this."

On the outside will be innumerable thousands of demonstrators.

Following the sometimes chaotic megaprotests in Seattle, and later ones in Washington, Los Angeles, and Prague, it's the unpredictability of the latter that worries police.

Nearly all demonstrators will be denouncing the Summit's main agenda item, a proposed hemispheric free-trade deal called the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), which would incorporate 800 million people and \$11-trillion in GDP into the world's largest free-trading area.

But they'll differ drastically in how they go about it.

"Mass protesters are peaceful but there will also be hooligans coming deliberately to stir up trouble and set fires," the mayor of Quebec, Jean-Paul L'Allier, said Tuesday. Hence the fence.

AN OFFER THEY CAN'T REFUSE

At five square kilometres, the security zone will enclose 2,000 homes, 400 businesses, the eight Summit meeting sites, and such places as the provincial legislature, the historic Plains of Abraham, and Quebec's citadel.

None if this will make life easy for the residents of St-Jean-Baptiste and nearby Old Quebec. Three schools have had to cancel classes on Friday, April 20. Hotels are banned from making reservations for guests. And there's the matter of the entry passes.

"We heard about them in the newspaper in November," recalls Tremblay, who asked that her real last name not be published. "It said that the people who were to be included in the perimeter were to get a letter in January."

She got her letter this week, sent jointly from the RCMP, the Sureté de Québec, and Quebec City's police. "The letter says 'we invite you to obtain an entry pass.' It doesn't say what happens if I don't," Tremblay said.

But she thinks she knows: "I won't be able to get home if I don't have the entry pass, that's what I understood."

According to the letter, a copy of which was obtained by The Daily, only residents of the enclosed neighbourhoods can get the passes, leaving tourists, shoppers, friends, and family in the lurch.

"It won't be possible for anybody to invite friends for a beer in Old Quebec," Tremblay laments.

As a result, she and fellow residents are organizing a campaign against the security zone. A neighbourhood association called the Comité Populaire St-Jean-Baptiste is pitching in as well.

"We want to go door-to-door, and we're going to picket," Tremblay said.

Nicolas Legault, who works with the Comité Populaire, was eager about the effort: "We're beginning an information campaign to educate people about the security perimeter and their rights and liberties."

"We're holding a huge public assembly in the middle of the neighbourhood on March 5, and a demonstration on March 17," Legault added.

The campaign took its first major step Tuesday, when 30 people denounced the zone at a Quebec city council meeting.

"We're not in favour of creating a war zone," one resident told council members.

"I won't even be able to buy a pint of milk," another complained.

Mayor L'Allier replied that the decision to impose a security perimeter was made by the federal government and the RCMP, and his government was powerless to do anything about it.

RCMP spokesperson Constable Julie Brongel defends the decision, saying that a "buffer zone" is needed to ensure the safety of visiting dignitaries. "Some groups have been quite vocal about their wishes to disrupt the Summit," Brongel said.

But activist-journalist Naomi Klein, who documented the rise of anti-corporate activism in her bestselling book *No Logo*, questions the RCMP's motives. "They are trying to paint all activism as potential terrorism in order to justify increased surveillance and the use of force," she said.

The security zone even gets lambasted in a play currently running in a local theatre.

Blake McGreevy, one of many McGill students who opposes the FTAA, was in Washington last April when police barricaded 80 city blocks, barring demonstrators from protesting outside a meeting of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank. McGreevy says erecting a barrier in Quebec "proves our point" about the lack of transparency at these international bodies.

"The biggest police mobilization in Canadian history, in response to a mass popular movement, just proves the point that the OAS is trying to go behind people's backs, that it doesn't represent people," he said.

Still other opponents of the security zone will be mounting a legal challenge, and they'll have a precedent on their side.

Last July, U.S. federal judge Gary Fees decreed that a 186-acre security area planned for August's Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles "substantially disregarded" the free speech rights of would-be demonstrators. When the convenience of conference organizers runs against

the right to free speech enshrined in the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment, Fees ruled, "the First Amendment always wins."

Los Angeles police were forced to drastically reduce the size of the zone, permitting demonstrators to convene immediately outside the convention.

THE LEGAL EAGLE

The challenge to Quebec's zone will also be based on the right to free speech, contained in Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms, Montreal civil rights lawyer Julius Grey told The Daily.

"We'll bring up freedom of expression," he said. "We're certainly going to fight this thing."

He won't speak for every civilian, though. The zone has its supporters among small business operators such as Régnald Veilleux, the manager of Au Petit Coin Breton, a creperie in the Old City.

Veilleux says the security zone "won't

bother me at all," because even though local residents and tourists won't be able to frequent the restaurant, he anticipates the 8,000 delegates and journalists on the inside will.

Same line at the Auberge du Trésor, an Old City hotel which was prohibited from booking rooms for the three Summit days. Instead, a buoyant employee revealed that the RCMP had reserved all the rooms.

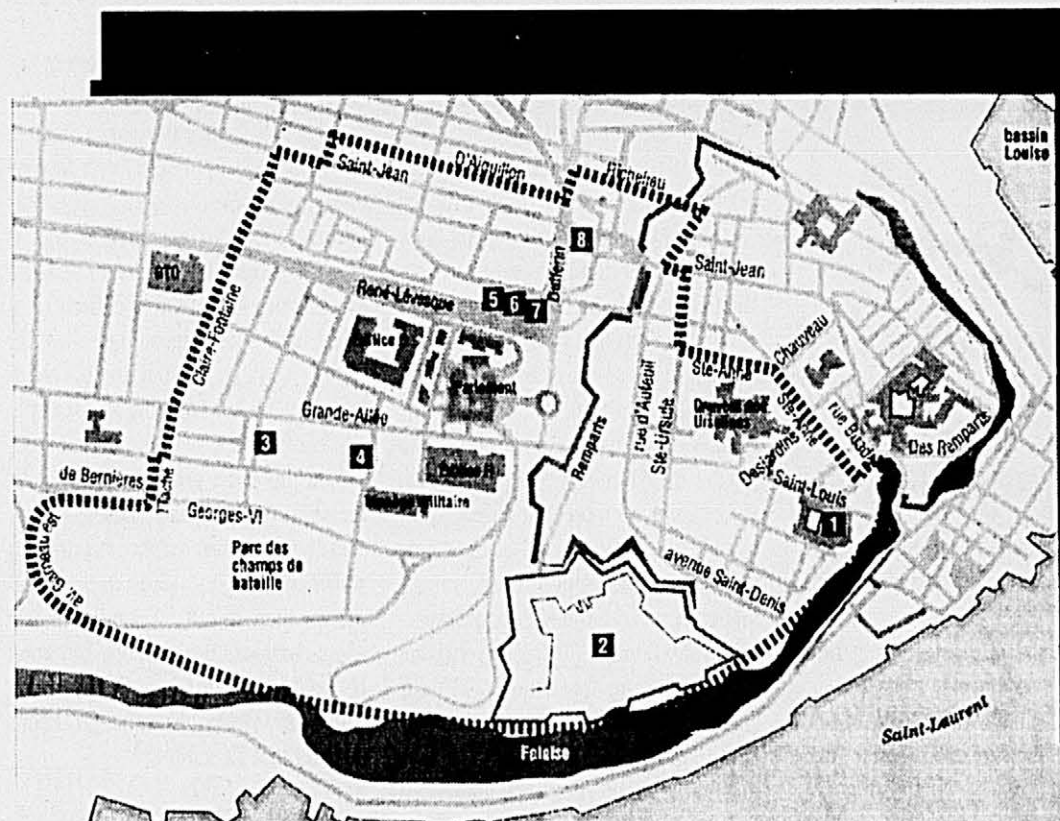
The Grand Théâtre de Québec was actually upset after being left outside the perimeter. Fearing vandalism and disruptions during the Summit, it postponed a concert by the Quebec City Symphony Orchestra.

Legault, of the Comité Populaire, still thinks the majority of residents are unhappy about the barrier.

"Most people I talk to are very angry about this," he says. "People around the perimeter think they're being taken hostage. They didn't decide to host these heads of state."

But barring a surprise in court, come April 20, they'll have little choice.

With files from The Link, Concordia



A planned five square kilometre enclosure (thick dotted line), intended to keep out protesters, has been targeted by civil rights proponents and local residents alike. Numbers denote meeting locations for the Third Summit of the Americas, to be held April 20-22 in Quebec City.

JANUARY 22, 2001

FUN FACT ABOUT OUR FOUNDER

W.E. Gladstone's exploits are often brushed over or omitted by Canadian historians who downplay his contribution to our country in most accounts of early 20th century Canada. We called up many historians asking them to comment on this sad omission. Only one had the guts to talk to us about W.E.

Daily: What do you think was W.E. Gladstone's biggest contribution to Canadian society?

Desmond Morton: Certainly, I would say that he was an important figure in the field of taxidermy. I mean, as a taxidermist he, well, was just an amazing contributor to the fabric of our land.

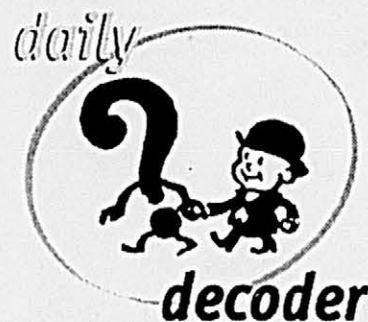
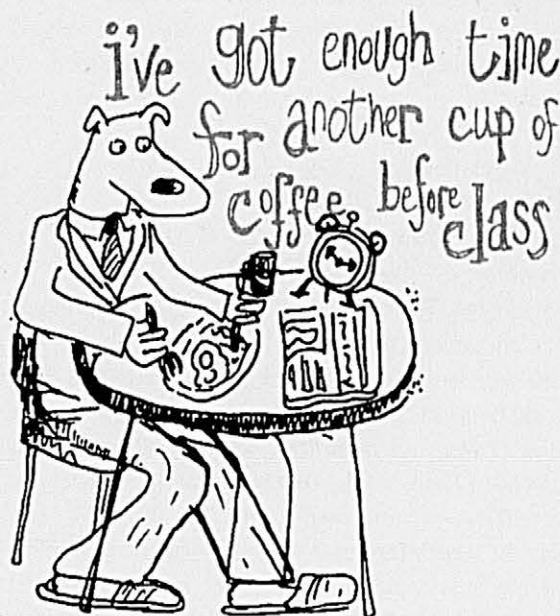
Daily: Do you like waffles?

Desmond Morton: Yes. Especially with maple syrup. I have to go, Al Waxman just died.



the lies i tell myself in the course of an average day.

BY STEVE BARKER



BY IAN MCKELLAR
The McGill Daily

WHAT'S UP WITH PASSIONS? IS THAT A TALKING DOLL OR A MIDGET OR WHAT?!

Passions is the new breakout hit of the NBC daytime lineup. It airs weekdays from 2:00-3:00pm on the Global Television Network (channel 46 for those of us without cable). What distinguishes this soap opera from all of its turgid, uninspired brethren is its ingenious use of witchcraft, bad special effects, and a

pint-sized actor named Josh Ryan Evans, more familiar to those of you at home as "Timmy, the weird talking doll." The three-foot-two Evans rambles on about drinking some sort of drink called a "Martimmy," and he participates in a bizarre subplot that involves the witches Tabitha and Hecuba, as well as a variety of special effects that simulate demons in hell and what seems to be some sort of swooping bird attack. Otherwise, *Passions* tends to focus on the people who inhabit the town of Harmony, of which there can be no more than fifteen. They include the villainous, old-money Crane family and the impoverished, much-maligned, and ostensibly Hispanic Lopez-Fitzgerald family. These two families fight. They are "passionate." This is class war at its best. There are some other families and plots, but they are confusing and unimportant. There was, however, a funny subplot involving French terrorists named Roget and Pierre, but that seems to have ended. Their 'French' accents

were worth the price of admission alone. Overall, the plots are infuriatingly predictable and it takes these poor SOB's at least two weeks to move the plot forward even the smallest amount. The only advantage of this approach is that it allows infrequent watchers to tune in every two weeks and still be entirely up to speed with the happenings. As for Timmy, don't cry for him and his shortness, because he's laughing all the way to the bank: quoth he, "as long as they exploit me and I get paid, what does it matter?" Very pragmatic indeed, Timmy. This *Passions* show is a phenomenon. An addiction. Alright, I admit it, I wrote in the question myself. I wanted to talk about *Passions*. Hey, shut up! You won't be laughing when I snag that interview with Maury Povich. Now that guy knows how to run a TV show!

For more info about *Passions* see www.nbctv.nbc.com/passions/, www.joshyanevans.net/

PEOPLE

BY DEREK BOWMAN, *The Manitoban*

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ACROSS

- 1 Beautiful Oscar-winning Italian actress
- 12 Groups of three leaders
- 13 Starting a hockey fight
- 14 Belittling toast
- 15 Gossip columnist Barrett
- 16 Stomach muscles
- 18 Salad ingredient
- 22 Competitor of the "National Enquirer"
- 26 "CHiPs" star
- 28 T.V.'s Warrior Princess
- 29 Cleveland native
- 30 Lumberjack's tool
- 31 Perpendicular ski lift
- 34 A little shaky
- 39 Some hockey tournament games
- 41 Large California conifer
- 42 *The Dark Is Rising* author

DOWN

- 1 Controversy
- 2 Yes _____, answer options
- 3 Leaning Tower city
- 4 "Survivor" shelters
- 5 Mimic
- 6 The "A" in G.P.A.: Abbr.
- 7 "The _____ Club," old Canadian T.V. game show
- 8 "_____ paraphrase ..."
- 9 Madonna hit from Erotica
- 10 Sicilian volcano

11 Opposite of pos.

17 Fenway Park team, to fans

18 _____-Mex cuisine

19 Mining yield

20 1/60 of an hr.

21 Alias

22 _____ Lanka

23 *The _____ of Poob*, Benjamin Hoff book

24 "The Piano" heroine

25 Jogged

27 Extinct, heavy, flightless bird

30 Fiery problem in Winnipeg

31 In _____ of, instead (of)

32 Men's briefs

33 Popular studio equipment and consumer electronics company

35 Passionate about

36 Large freshwater fish

37 Robert _____, Civil War general

38 Belgian river

39 M.D.'s

40 Samaranch's org.



Indie Culture Back With A Vengeance

The return of Montreal zine Fish Piss heralds a resurgence of local art



by Fidèle C.

BY BEN ERRETT
The McGill Daily

The junkie stands in front of the vending machine, fumbling in his pocket for change to get his fix. He slides the coins through the slot, pulls the knob and collects his box of shape poems from the drawer below. According to Louis Rastelli, this is the future of art: cheap, spontaneous and local. He's the editor of Montreal zine Fish Piss and the man responsible for bringing the Autodistoboto machine to Montreal.

The machine, Rastelli explains, will allow local artists, musicians, zinesters and poets to sell their wares to the public via a old cigarette vending machine. The prototype will be at Casa de Popolo, a collectively run café on St. Laurent. Contributors can provide anything that will fit into a king size cigarette package, and it will sell for two dollars.

The idea came from the States, where a machine called the Art-o-Mat sells art in community centres and galleries. Rastelli explains that his machine will differ in that the art will be reproduced, so that artists stand a better chance of making money off the project. One would think that Big Tobacco would seize upon this plan to endear themselves to artists, but Rastelli explains that this hasn't been the case.

"[The Art-o-Mat creator] has received no response from tobacco companies... I guess they don't like the mix of art and cigarettes. Maybe it's too subversive," Rastelli said.

"I tried to contact cigarette companies to see where they make cigarette packages and where I could get some, but they didn't want anything to do with me. I think they thought I was calling from another company to spy on them."

CHEAPER THAN CIGARETTES

Rastelli's focus with the Autodistoboto is on keeping art local and accessible. He explained the machine at the launch for the latest issue of Fish Piss at Casa de Popolo. The event was entirely promoted through posterage and word-of-mouth, and that's the way Rastelli likes it.

"I kinda like the idea of not having to go to the weeklies," Rastelli said.

"Fish Piss exists because of the weeklies sucking. When the Mirror started 15 years ago, it was a lot different, much more open. Probably several hundred people wrote for them every year. It was a great place to get experience. Eventually the Mirror, the Hour and even Vice clamped down and kept their salaried writers. Where were people supposed to go? Before Fish Piss, there was Flaming Poutine, and there was RearGarde before that."

Fish Piss is now on issue 7, and is a collection of comics, interviews, reviews of local music from more than 40 contributors. The publication had been on hiatus for about a year, but now Rastelli wants to publish quarterly. He explains that distribution problems has made survival harder for small presses in Montreal.

"In the last year, Chapters kicked out all of their local stuff, and Mojo stopped carrying their local stuff as well," Rastelli said. "That used to be our flagship store — we would sell about 200 issues there alone. The sad part is he's lost tons of business since then. Sure, you get 40 to 50 people with their stuff in there, it might not sell that much, but you have 40 to 50 people coming around. It really frustrates me that Chapters just kicked us out. Indigo won't have anything to do with anything this small."

Rastelli has approached marketers in

Toronto, but they decided that it wouldn't sell and effectively ended his chances for Canadian distribution. Strangely, he's had more luck in the US than he has in Canada, with distribution in Tower records stores in a smattering of cities.

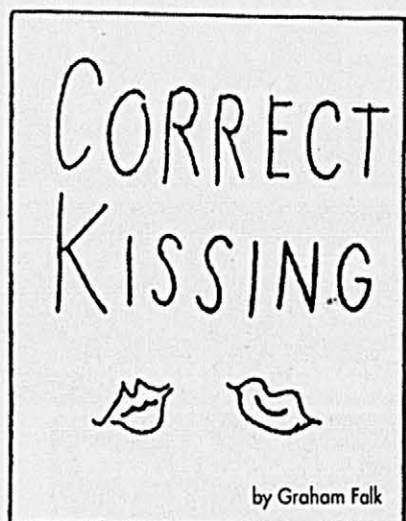
FOR THE KIDS

One of Rastelli's other projects is the Archive, a non-profit foundation with the goal of keeping a record of independent Montreal art. With a few friends, he has amassed a large collection of band demos, show posters and zines from the Montreal underground. His goal is to take ephemeral cultural artifacts and keep them for future generations.

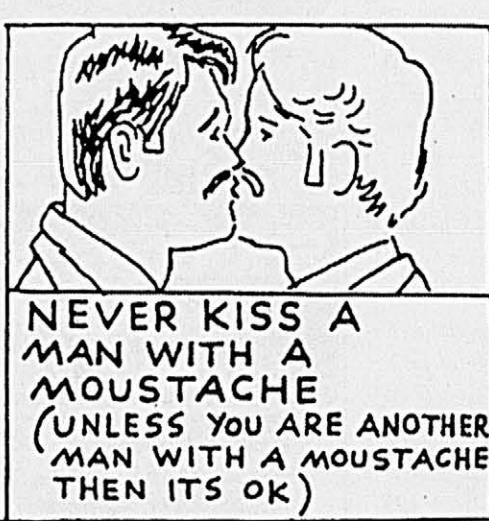
"One prospect is that we will approach the Grand Bibliothèque that [the Quebec government] is building," Rastelli says. "They've already mentioned that they want to work with all kinds of local organizations to stock it with local stuff. That's something that would help us with our mandate to keep local stuff."

The contents of Fish Piss will be included, as will the contents of the Autodistoboto. Both projects are looking for contributors. Art for the Autodistoboto must be smaller than a pack of cigarettes, meaning zines should be about a third of a letter sized piece of paper. It should also cost less than \$1.50 to make, and is due by Wednesday. A comix jam at Casa de Popolo will culminate in the collection of items for the machine. The grand launch of the machine will occur at 7 p.m. on Friday, January 26.

Fish Piss contributions can be sent to C.P. 1232, Place d'Armes, Montreal, QC H2Y 3K2. For more details about the Autodistoboto, call 282-0146. Casa de Popolo is located at 4873 St. Laurent.



by Graham Falk



Crash Semantics

Art collective reinterprets crash culture

BY JASON REHEL
Culture Reporter

He called them trophies. Or "animal skins laid out as proof of the plunder of the crash." Airbags strapped with seatbelts, like the hides of monkeys to soft sponge, lay over the floor of the gallery. A distorted grinding weaved its way into my ears from a suspended speaker. He expressed a hypersensitivity to the politicized art movement that was early 20th century Futurism, while acknowledging its necessary reexamination in the context of early 21st century technological desensitization. Most importantly, the anonymous member of the KIT international artistic collective whom I spoke with at Friday's vernissage for *Poi.n-t*—an exhibit which is being displayed jointly by Galerie Clark and Article this week, was able to illuminate for me the underlying impetus for such a seemingly odd portrayal of automobile safety technology.

The exhibit initially aims to reduce the potential squeamish feelings of its audience. It seeks to go beyond the Volvo, Honda or Toyota rhetoric of improved safety achieved with the discovery and improvements to the airbag, the KIT artist explained. An attempt was made to call attention to the intersection of temporal processes during crashes by taking usually banal airbags and fetishizing them. The emphasized critique of the technology is implicit in the group's own explanation that, "the spectacle of the auto-accident produces a necessary and functional sacrificial economy." It is the dialectic on this economy, between the urban motorist and his or her specialized environment of the auto-crash, to which KIT brings a level of sense-making. It is a

process of demystifying a piece of material which, having for so long been folded and packaged inside our concept of what a car is, has become part of the false sense of safety which is bred by the tired advertisements of major car companies. Given that the introduction of the airbag in the 1990's was hardly a smooth one, and because car companies still use things like airbags to merely put a partial PR mask on the truth about our rolling internal combustion coffins as the most dangerous form of transport ever invented.

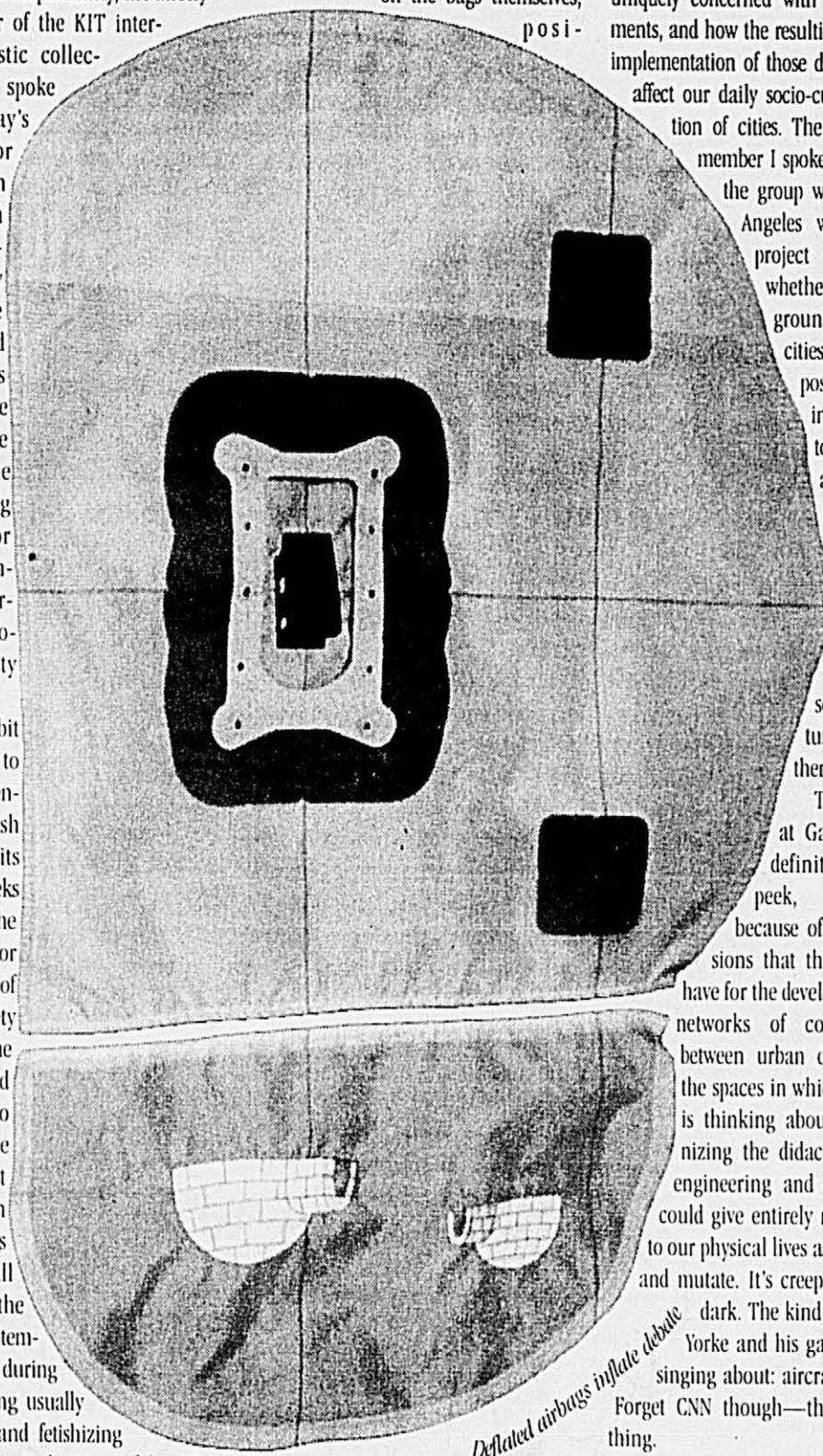
Wonderfully drawing in the accident experience itself are the mirror image physics formulae which are embroidered on the bags themselves,

airbags. Couched in the Futurist ideal of the crash as an important intersection point between experience and technology, as well as the need to move the crash discourse out of the narrow "disaster territory" out of which many artists have worked recently, KIT presents *Poi.n-t* as the stark reality of movement through an urban narrative. Once one fully digests the pseudo-sculptures alongside the cozy confines of Galerie Clark, an eerie relationship between human beings, technology, and an ignorance of design begins to take shape.

The artistic collective itself, made up of urban planners, architects and various artists from a wide-range of disciplines, is uniquely concerned with built environments, and how the resulting designs and implementation of those designs come to affect our daily socio-cultural navigation of cities. The KIT collective member I spoke to hinted that the group was now in Los Angeles working on a project to discover whether an "over-ground culture" in cities exists or if it is possible. They are investigating the tops of buildings and seeking out new relationships between the built urban environment and our daily social and cultural habits held therein.

The exhibition at Galerie Clark is definitely worth a peek, especially because of the repercussions that this work could have for the development of real networks of communication between urban dwellers about the spaces in which they live. It is thinking about, and recognizing the didactic natures of engineering and design which could give entirely new meanings to our physical lives as they progress and mutate. It's creepy, cynical and dark. The kind of stuff Thom Yorke and his gang are always singing about: aircrashes, airbags. Forget CNN though—this is the real thing.

such that they would smack passengers in the face. The formulae mathematically represent the physical movement that occurs between the crash victim and the airbag during the crash. They are presented as mirror images to reflect the stretching of time which occurs with their presentation on the "trophy"



Deflated airbags inflate debate

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Sassy Skankfest

Stomp All-Stars show off ska at Le Swimming

BY PATRICK GUYER
Culture Reporter

Thought there was such thing as too much ska? The idea of putting together a band comprised of some of the most talented ska musicians in town for a one-month stint at Le Swimming seemed like a great one. However, standing smack in the middle of the shoulder-to-shoulder crowd at Le Swimming last Thursday night, I couldn't help but feel just the tiniest smidgen of disappointment at the performance put on by this act that I had such high hopes for.

Maybe it was the sweet lingering memory of the The Kingpins' fantastic performance at Café Campus the previous Thursday, when the 200 or so of us kids who actually found out about the show were treated to almost two hours of uncrowded and undisturbed enjoyment of one of Montreal's best ska bands. Or maybe it was the somewhat crummy sound system, or the letdown of not having enough space to dance to a music so deserving of full body appreciation. Something about the overall situation was just not quite right.

But these were the shortcomings of the venue and staging. As for the band, I can only say that The All-Stars put on a great show. Drawing key

members from The Kingpins, The Planet Smashers, The Undercovers, The Gruesomes and Gangster Politics, the All-Stars roster is basically a who's-who of the vibrant local ska scene. While coming up with a set list, The All-Stars seem to have searched for a sort of historical common denominator of all the members' bands, coming up with a easy-rocking mix of classic reggae, blue beat, rocksteady and second wave 2-Tone ska spiced with their own jazz, R&B, and lounge accents. Playing through a very fluid set of classic covers and innovative jazzy originals, The All-Stars took turns strutting their stuff and treating us to some truly captivat-

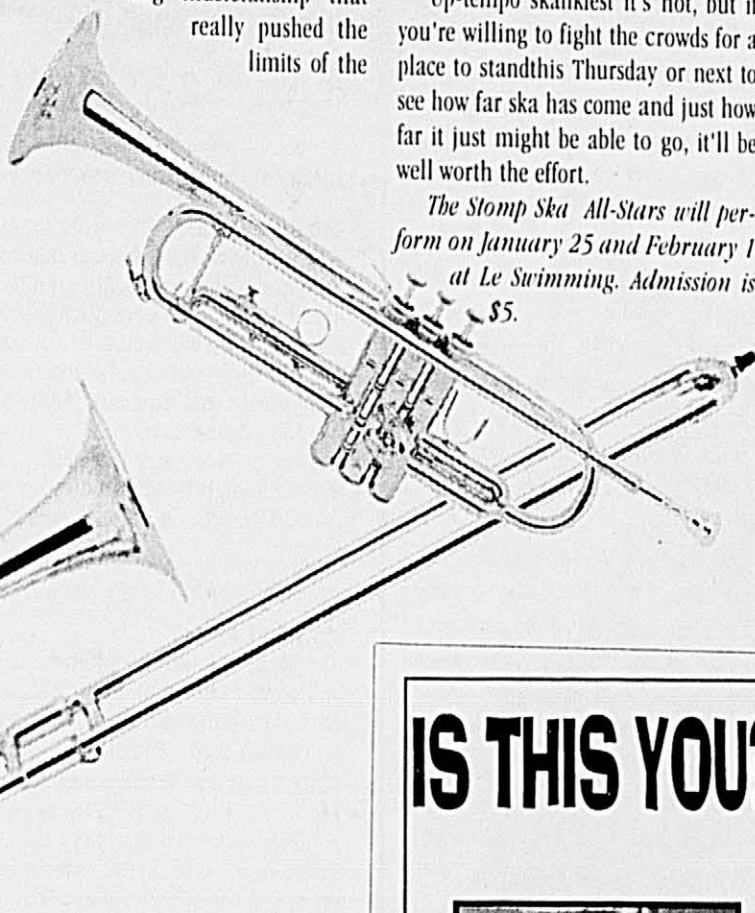
ing musicianship that really pushed the limits of the

term "ska" to new creative limits.

Although deprived of the dance-filled evening I had been hoping for, I exited Le Swimming with the satisfaction of having played witness to some incredible playing by some truly talented musicians. The support of the local scene, as evidenced by the evening's capacity attendance, was also heartwarming as it proved that while institutions of ska are quietly folding (take for example the Dec. 17, 2000 closing of NYC's landmark Moon Ska Records), Montreal music lovers won't hesitate to come out and watch their heroes try (and succeed!) to breathe new life into this dwindling genre.

Up-tempo skankfest it's not, but if you're willing to fight the crowds for a place to stand this Thursday or next to see how far ska has come and just how far it just might be able to go, it'll be well worth the effort.

The Stomp Ska All-Stars will perform on January 25 and February 1 at Le Swimming. Admission is \$5.



The Poets

**Time twists
and shakes
and thrives
and gives to those
and takes from some-
Like to the nurse
squatting on her break
decorating her cigarette pack
with flowers
maybe words
and underneath those words
(beneath the cardboard
behind the tin-foil)
Her epiphany
time and time again.**

—Jonathan Montpetit

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Blues As Second Nature

Established Chicago bluesman plays Cafe Campus, chats about career

By MICHELLE HOLMES
The McGill Daily

Chicago blues player Byther Smith has been described as "the most intense bluesman on the planet," and the audience could feel that intensity last Wednesday when he played at Cafe Campus.

A one-time prizefighter in Arizona, Mississippi-born Smith headed to Chicago in 1957 and has been playing the blues ever since. Picking up guitar tips from well-known bluesmen Robert Jr. Lockwood and Hubert Sumlin, through the 60's he worked as a freelance guitarist and bassist with some of Chicago's best, including Muddy Waters, Little Walter, Howling Wolf, Jimmy Reed and Otis Rush. While in Chicago, he released several early recordings.

After playing lead guitar for Junior Wells in the house band at Chicago's Theresa's Lounge for five years, making recordings for C.J. and BeBe such as "Money Tree", "So Unhappy" "Give me my white robe" and "What have I done?", Byther Smith returned to freelancing. He has since traveled the world playing the blues, working on the East Coast with George "Harmonica" Smith and touring Canada with Big Mama Thornton in the mid to late 70's, as well as releasing an LP, "Addressing the Nation" in Europe.

Today, Byther Smith is still playing the blues, straight up, Chicago-style. And, as Bill Dahl warns, he has not mellowed with age. At Cafe Campus, Byther Smith's show was a session of incendiary guitar playing and singing, backed by a proficient three-piece on rhythm guitar, bass and drums. I had the opportunity to meet with Byther Smith before his show.

Daily: From what I've read, you've been a part of a lot of great times in blues history. How did you first get involved?

Byther Smith: Well, when I came to Chicago, I came to Chicago lookin' for a job, and I couldn't find a job. So I just thought I would play until I did get a job.

It wasn't my intention at all to ever come to be a musician, I just wanted to make enough money to pay my rent and feed my babies. I got started playin' and I just kept playin' and I just kept playin' and after a couple of years I said to myself I'm not gonna play any more after next week. And I just kept playin'. Somethin' just eased in and never got off of me. I've seen a lot of musicians that's all up in the air about their playin'—they want everyone to know they play, people to respect what they doin' and all that but that's never bothered me. It was a job and I just went and did that job. It never occurred to me that I was playin' music with some of the greatest musicians, it never even bothered me at all. And at the end of the night, it's still just a job.

D: So do you have any main sources of creative inspiration for your music?

BS: When I'm playin', I guess the feelin' is what I'm doin' right then and there. When I come off the bandstand, I'm just like anybody else. I never have it on my mind, what I'm gonna play for the next set. It comes naturally, it just comes naturally. A lot of people have to write stuff down, to memorize what it's all about, but I don't. Numbers come into my head, all of my recordings that I ever did, I don't even think about them. That's the way I am. I don't know why I'm like that, I really don't know anything about it.

D: Some of your songs have been described as consistently aggressive. Does this have anything to do with your time as a boxer?

BS: I was a prizefighter. Now that's the only thing that ever really stuck with me. I wanted to be a champion, and I felt like it, like at this particular time I could have been a champion. This was back in the '50s—'54-'56, I wanted to be a fighter.

D: What stopped you from reaching that goal?

BS: I fought for three and a half years and my auntie found out that this is what I was doin' instead of goin' up to the cowboy ranch. When she found out that I wasn't

goin' up there, that I was goin' and fightin', I went and got her and carried her down one Friday night to see me fight, and I lost that night. And she found out that I had got her name fostered on the contract, I got a white lady to forge her name 'cause I knew that she wouldn't do it, and she got mad, got a lawyer and got a release from the contract. And I got mad and I left Arizona.

D: I guess you're lucky you had more than one talent.

BS: Well, I always thought that deep down in my heart I was born to be a fighter. I never dreamed of bein' a musician.

D: Do you think that fighting drive comes out in your music?

BS: I really don't know. I don't really think about it. The Lord give me the knowledge to play, and I play to my best, and I don't worry about the next thing about it. I don't even worry about tomorrow. The music don't ever bother me at all. It never touches me.

D: You've been playing all over the place, I know throughout the states, and you've done some Canadian tours.

BS: I've been around the world about 41 times. I've been as far as Russia, Japan.

D: You must have a wide fan base. Do you try to appeal to anyone in particular?

BS: I just go down and play. They like it. If they don't like it, it's still okay with me.

D: People say you haven't mellowed with age. How do you keep up your intensity when you're playing?

BS: Well it's like I say - don't nothin' ever bother me. I don't ever get worried about nothin', I don't get nervous about anything, I don't let nothin' stay on my mind long enough to worry me. Don't nothin' bother me. I do what I got to do.

D: Do you think you'll keep playing for a while?

BS: Really, to be honest, to tell you the truth, I can't tell you if I'm gonna quit tonight, or tomorrow, or the next day. It's just whatever comes. And when somethin' in my mind strikes me, this is it. When it

happens, when it comes to me that's what I do. I don't set for nothin'. I'm not like other musicians, I don't drink whiskey, I don't gamble, I don't smoke.

D: I'm just getting into the blues recently. Do you have any tips for new blues fans?

BS: What I believe in, how I know to explain it, is that it's not just blues that you're listening to or playin'. It's just the music. If you're gonna play, play the music,

then put the song to whatever you're playin'. See, the song is what you're gonna play, whether you play it fast and you call it rock. People call music disco, they call it jazz, but it's only one music. I don't care what they call it, what the name is, it's only one music. If a kid's gonna learn to play, go on and learn the instrument. Then put the song with whatever they playin'. Then they can call the song whatever they want to call it. You can't change the music.

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For more information see www.aro.mcgill.ca/student/red.htm

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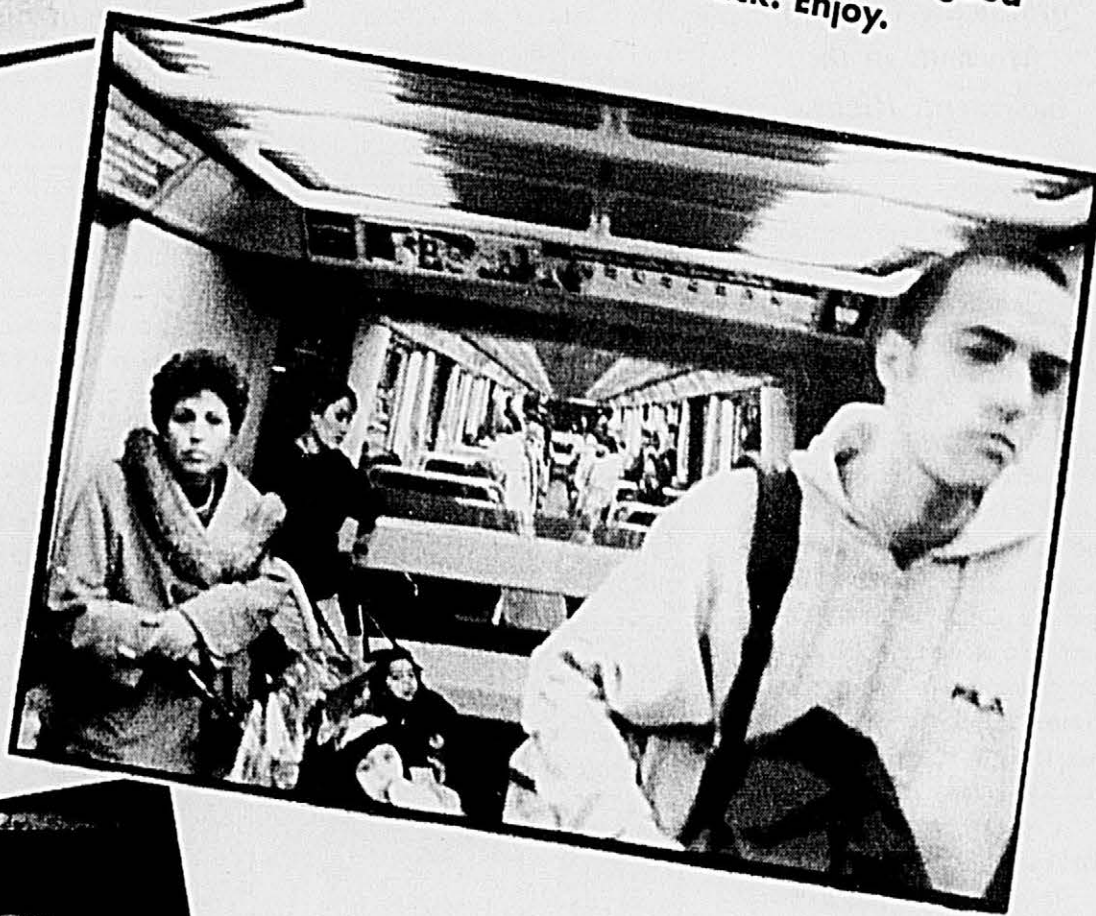
Deadline: Wednesday, February 28, 2001

The metro section

BY PIERRE ALAIN PARFOND



So, there I was: Lyon: the third biggest city in France and home of Guignol – some famous guy. What struck me at first was that the metro : it's beautiful, big windowed, self operated, and most of all it's FREE...well not really, but there are no turnstiles so it's quasi-free. What can I say, it was a good trip, I will go back. Enjoy.



Eight Days Too Many

Play about the Ice Storm freezes over and crashes to the ground, splintering into little cold fragments that hurt your feet when you step on them and making you want to croak

BY J. KELLY NESTRUCK
The McGill Daily

Remember the Ice Storm of 1998? If you were in Montreal, you may recall spending long periods of time waiting for the lights to go on. *Nine Days*

**"They are egged on by
The Man to stop
Thelma before she
destroys the planet by
producing the play
Macbeth in the
basement. Right."**

in January, a play set during that exciting time in our recent history, elicits the exact same feeling you had then. The latest production from local Montreal theatre company Untimely Ripped is a failure, but at least it's an ambitious failure.

Nine Days in January is the brainchild of Montreal's Andrew Farrar. Not only did he write this play, but he is the artistic director of Untimely Ripped and takes the role of the main character, Wally. This is a recipe for disaster. *Nine Days* has glimmers of a good play within it, but it is in sorry need of extensive workshopping. Farrar's friends, who form the locus of Untimely Ripped, were clearly much too polite to tell him what was so bad about the play. With so much creative control over the production, none of the fat got trimmed.

The play concerns the haphazard adventures of Wally and Mick (a wonderfully comic Christian Paul) during the Ice Storm. They arrive at a mysterious house with a letter, unsure of what they are supposed to do there. Farrar's writing echoes Tom Stoppard's *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* in the first part of the play. It is the first twenty minutes that are the best and here we observe the writing of a promising playwright.

As the play progresses, however, we discover that Wally and Mick have been summoned by Mother to help their old friend Thelma, who may have screwed up the laws of physics and caused the ice storm. They are egged on by The Man to stop Thelma before she destroys the planet by producing the play *Macbeth* in the basement. Right.

The problem is that Farrar takes this premise too seriously. He tries to tackle philosophical issues in a Stoppard-like manner, but his debates between characters are at times incoherent. Instead of tackling

one issue that arose from the ice storm—for instance, the dependency of our modern world on technology—Farrar tries to cover this, the meaning of freedom, the role of government in our society, the role of theatre, and various other age-old conundrums.

The dramatic parts of the play are melodramatic. The comic parts are too often sitcom-like. Bits of dialogue seem lifted from *The Simpsons*; Groundskeeper Willie turns up as McCulloch, a man condemned to play McDuff in dangerous productions of *Macbeth*.

The references to other playwrights, especially Shakespeare, are in abundance. Thelma is an anagram of Hamlet, though her character has no parallels to him. The play is downright confusing and at times incoherent, and a quick survey of the opening night audience could not produce one person who understood what was going on.

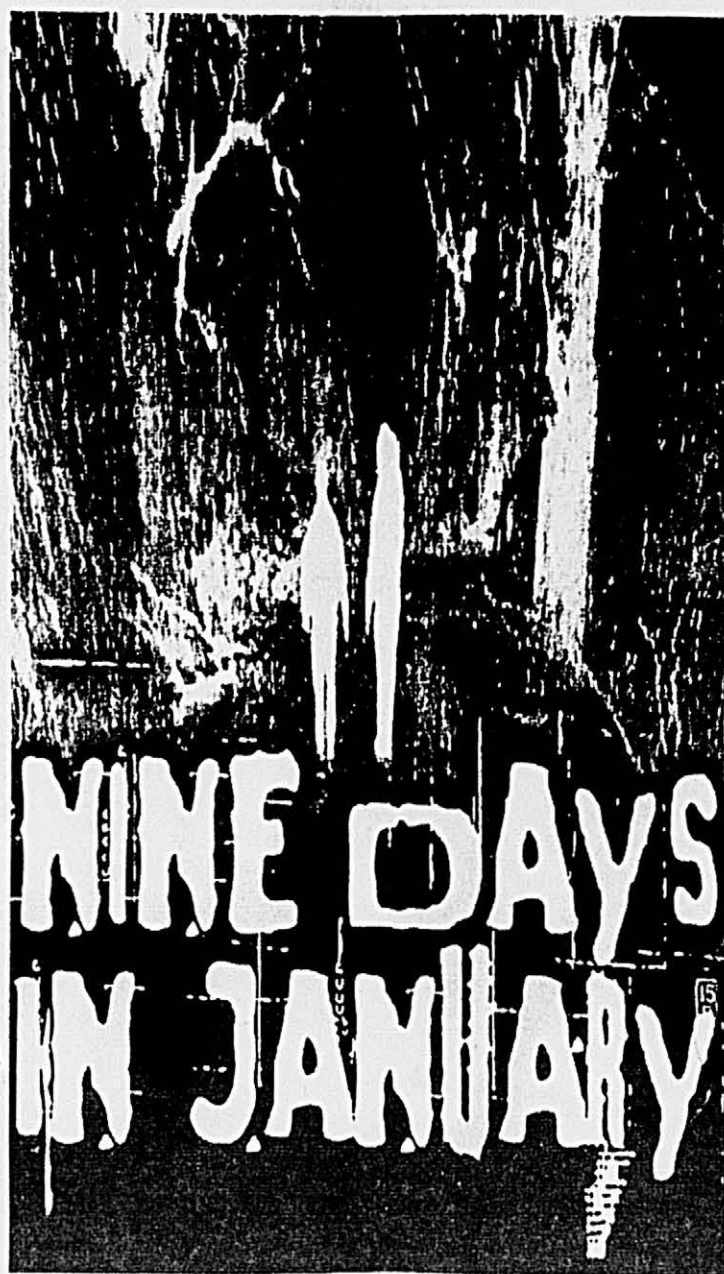
Putting aside the shortcomings of the play for a moment, the acting was good on most fronts. Farrar is amiable as the lead and Jesse Todd does a good turn as The Man. Catherine Lemieux, who did a won-

derful job in *Call Me* during the Fringe festival, had trouble projecting and the audience strained to hear her. Melanie St-Jacques struggles with the role of Thelma, a truly confusing and badly devised character. Elias Troufexis has a memorable cameo as McCulloch. Jason Farrar's Sgt. Gurth should have been cut from the play;

**"It's a bad sign
when... your date gets
angry at you for
having brought her
along."**

his part as an actor trainer was lame, but he played it with gusto.

I've seen Untimely Ripped productions before and they do much better stuff than this. If Farrar plans on writing another play for the company, I hope they workshop it first before renting a theatre like Moyses



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 **CAREER PROSPECTOR**

Date Rape Drugs

UBC, McGill, myth and Rohypnol revisited

BY CYNTHIA LEE
The Ubyssy

Campus groups are concerned about recent reports suggesting that drugs have been used in attempted sexual assaults at the University of British Columbia (UBC).

"Recently, several reports indicate that individuals have had memory loss drugs slipped into their drinks at UBC. This is occurring in bars and parties, so please take precautions," reads a poster sponsored by a coalition that includes the Women's Students Office and the student association.

Individuals who have ingested these drugs - among them the high-profile Rohypnol - suffer from symptoms that are similar to the effects of consuming alcohol, including disorientation, a lack of co-ordination, slurred speech and drowsiness.

Safewalk assistant director Jon Hanvelt at UBC said his group is aware of the reports, but declined to comment specifically on any incidents because of a confidentiality policy.

"The idea that people are on campus acting with so little respect for other people and potentially putting people at risk is a concern to us," he said.

Another poster endorsed by the WSO specifically names Rohypnol in its warning. Rohypnol is prescribed as a sleeping pill in some countries and is linked to cases of sexual assault, though it is illegal in Canada. The drug is colourless, odourless and tasteless, rendering it imperceptible in any drink, be it alcoholic or otherwise.

Despite the warnings on the posters, the campus RCMP said no conclusive cases of Rohypnol use have been reported to the police.

But Danielle Efford, a constable with the university RCMP detachment, added that the lack of reports does not necessarily mean that incidents are not occurring.

"A lot of sexual assaults don't even get reported to us. For whatever reason, they

**"Watch out for
your friends and
use your common
sense."**

don't want the police involved," she said.

Efford also said that tracing Rohypnol and similar drugs can be difficult. "For people who suspect they have been drugged [and] don't get to the hospital and get tested right away, [the drug] is gone within [a short time]," she added. Rohypnol can be detected up to 72 hours after ingestion, but the sooner one is tested, the better.

"People should be aware and keep their drinks covered and keep an eye on their drinks when they're out. But there isn't, as far as we know, a big scare."

Corporal Scott Rintoul of the RCMP's drug awareness unit said that while two drug seizures involving Rohypnol had occurred since January 1999, RCMP inves-

tigations indicate that a positive test for Rohypnol in a sexual assault case has never occurred in Canada.

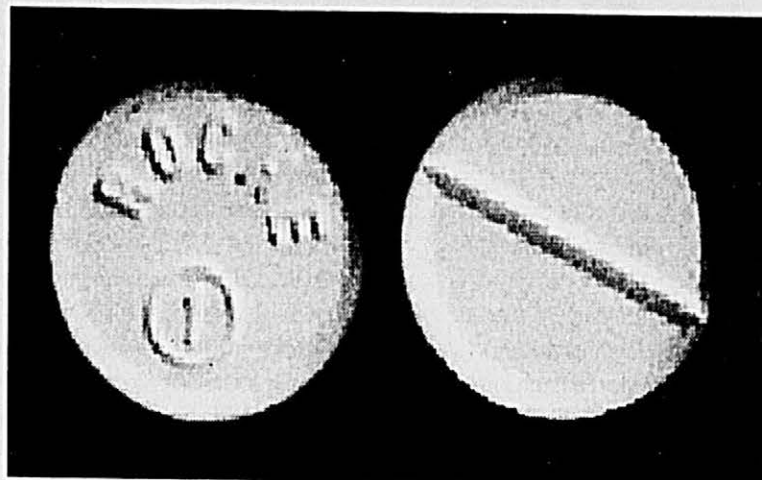
"Having said that, there are prescription sedatives that are substitutes for Rohypnol," he added. These substitutes are gaining in popularity, as the original pharmaceutical company, Hoffman La Roche, that manufactured Rohypnol changed its formula so the pill is no longer colourless once dissolved. Hoffman La Roche's formula turns blue once dissolved (which still makes it hard to detect in dark drinks), but small companies in South Africa and South America are manufacturing the original formula.

Rintoul said that gamma hydroxy butyrate (GHB), a central nervous system depressant, is another illegal drug that has been associated in two recent cases of sexual assault in B.C. GHB is even more difficult to trace than Rohypnol since it leaves the body only six hours after ingestion.

According to Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter, roughly one quarter of the 1,400 calls that it receives on its crisis line implicates drugs or alcohol as a factor in an attack against a woman.

On the Montreal scene, various myths and reports of date rape drugs exist. Two years ago, there were various reports and concerns that at Gert's, "roofies", Rohypnol's street name, was being slipped into drinks. Girls claimed that after a single beer, they would feel extremely strange, overly drunk and knew something was wrong.

In the wider Montreal area, due to the



Rohypnol tablets are white and are single or cross-scored on one side with "ROCHE" and "1" or "2" encircled on the other.

rising concern surrounding date rape drugs, there were ideas of creating a coaster campaign at area bars. The coasters, which never actually hit the bar scene, were reported to have said, "Please don't drug this drink."

Since then, there has been less publicity and awareness surrounding date rape drugs, but people remain to be concerned with high risk behaviors and situations that both male and female university students find themselves in.

Erica Weinstein of the McGill Women's Union, said that while she "hadn't heard of any specific [Rohypnol-related] events...[you] should always be aware of anything put in a drink." She also stressed that both males and females should be careful about where their drinks are and who is mixing them. Weinstein also pointed out that no one should be "paranoid,

just be aware."

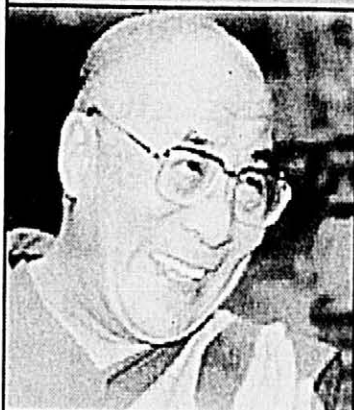
Apart from the risk of having a drink at a bar, club or private party drugged, any form of excessive drinking is risky. Weinstein pointed out that there are still girls outside of clubs being sick, and while their friends may be taking care of them, there are those who are alone and thus susceptible to being attacked or brought somewhere without their conscious consent.

In an effort to prevent sexual attacks due to chemical consumption, Weinstein advised people to "go in groups and make sure that someone in the group is aware of what's going on. Watch out for your friends and use your common sense...also, the key thing to remember is that if you are assaulted, it is not your fault."

-with files from Sari Long

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-Sari Long

Broomball is Here

Intrepid Daily reporter gets the scoop on the season

BY ARNI SLOG
Mind and Body Reporter

One of the most injury-filled yet widely ignored sports in the intermural circuit today is, hands down, broomball. The Daily caught up with Jean Hannah Edelstein, the captain and unanimous leader of last year's third place team, Freudian Slip.

Daily: So, you did pretty well last season, huh?

JHE: Well, we would have liked to go all the way. But considering that few of us had ever experienced the wonder that is broomball, it was just amazing. To think that I had come to Canada knowing nothing about the sport and left with a new winter athletic passion that will surely shape the course of the rest of my life...

Daily: Wow. That's pretty heavy. What is it about broomball itself that gives you such passion?

JHE: The slipping. The sliding. I really started playing because a friend described it to me as a "sport that no one is good at." I have never been good at any sport, so I instantly knew that broomball and I would be a perfect love match. Perhaps I might even become a champion.

Daily: Sounds like you have lofty aspirations. How does your season look this year?

JHE: Oh...well...our team is as enthusiastic as ever. We have taken some unfortunate spills on the ice but there have been no hospital visits thus far. We are trying not to fall victim to too much hubris, but we are looking forward to the playoffs with a certain degree of ambition. Win or lose,

however, the best thing about broomball is the chance I get to run around on ice with a great group of people.

Daily: Do you have any standout players that we should be watching for?

JHE: All of my players are standout players. We all bring a unique aspect to the team whether it is a hat trick every game or a pretty purple broomball stick. Or a complete inability to stand up on the ice. The one word that best describes Freudian Slip is: heart. We've got it.

Daily: So when is your next matchup?

JHE: We'll be playing Tuesday night at 7 pm in Molson Stadium. We're coming off a slightly disappointing performance last game, so I'm sure that the entire team will be dedicated to reclaiming some glory on the ice. We'll also probably fall down a lot. Come watch, it's sure to be funny.

This is What University Dining Was Supposed to Be

Thomson House shows food court impostors how academics dine



BY FRANKLIN SACKVILLE
The Daily Gourmand

Though I humbly wear the title of Daily Gourmand, I don't want any of my readers to think I'm a complete food snob. I enjoy LaFleur's as much as the next starving student, and have been known to visit the occasional food court. It

may be noted here that the sesame chicken at Chee Chan in the Eaton Centre is deep fried to perfection and worth the occasional pilgrimage. However, and Ecclesiastes is with me on this, to everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven. Food courts have their place on God's green earth, and that's in the basement of shopping malls. It isn't on university campuses.

My reasons for broaching this topic are twofold. First of all, I do not like forking over six dollars for a styrofoam plate of fried dough potentially containing chicken flakes. Nor do I like the stomach aches that inevitably accompany such a meal. But on a more profound level, why the hell are we trying to turn the whole world into one big food court? At Concordia, the Student

Union funds the People's Potato, an initiative to help feed students cheaply and nutritiously. Here, we choose to get the big screw from our student government: bring us substandard, expensive, fatty food through a corporation.

Which brings me to the few wonderful places on campus where you don't have to feel like you're in a subterranean shopping plaza. One of these places is Architecture Café, but I will be admonished by friends for giving them publicity and thus making them busier. The theory is that it's like Fight Club, and I've just broken the first rule. No, the most civilized dining experience on campus is surely found at Thomson House. The Post-Graduate Students Society headquarters is just a few buildings up from Shatner on McTavish,

but it feels like it's a million kilometres away. To walk into its mahogany lined front room, lit by sun reflecting off the snow-covered reservoir, is to enter a more civilized world. I make a habit of having lunch in this environment as often as possible. The dining room downstairs is a bit more formal and usually not suited to my unfortunately brief lunches. Upstairs, one is wise to order a soup and sandwich. The soups are clearly homemade, and they don't lack for variety. Of particular note in the last two weeks have been the carrot cilantro and potato mexibean. The sandwiches upstairs are made in advance and kept chilled, but a quick dip in the soup brings them to the ideal temperature. Your sandwich standards are all in full effect, and often the special sandwiches are

miniature works of art. I refer here with fond memories to the cheddar tuna basil special of two Friday's ago.

So how much does it cost to enter this wonderful, relaxed world? Ironically, less than the atrocious food court. The soup and sandwich costs about five dollars, and the freshly-ground coffee served in an actual ceramic cup is only 85 cents. Unfortunately, one technically has to be a PGSS member to eat at the restaurant, although they do not check during the day. My advice to you is to befriend a graduate student and spend the days reading in the lounge. That's where you'll find me.

Thomson House is located at 3650 McTavish. Franklin Sackville can be emailed at feasts@mcgilldaily.com.

MONTREAL PATRONS: CHEESY, CHEAP, CHURLISH

Last week's column on service in Montreal restos generated buckets of response. Here's an argument that was of particular interest, made by a reader who wishes to remain anonymous:

"Your central thesis seems to be that Montreal servers are bad. Having worked in the Montreal restaurant industry for two years now (at a restaurant that shall remain nameless) I would like to rebut. While the servers are bad, they have a right to be so - most Montreal patrons are cheap to the point of bafflement. I have per-

sonally witnessed seventy-five cent tips on ninety dollar bills and in one horrendous incident, witnessed a six cent tip on a two hundred dollar bill (the result of someone rounding up the total to the nearest dollar). What most people don't know is that servers in Quebec are taxed on their tips - they MUST claim a certain amount of their income as tips to the government whether they actually make that amount or not. Therefore, by not leaving a good tip, they are in fact costing the server money. Keeping in mind that servers all make below

minimum wage (minimum wage for servers being lower than regular minimum wage), it is not shocking that many of them have become jaded.

Further, patrons (many of whom are students) make a habit of "camping" in the restaurants - sitting down and staying long after they've received their bills, and interfering with either a waitress's ability to turn over a table, or to simply go home. I have witnessed one waitress be forced to remain at the restaurant for two hours due to campers - and keep in mind that they do

not get paid for the hours they are forced to spend waiting for that one sole table that refuses to leave. Patrons show little respect to servers; half the time they don't remember what they ordered and they don't seem to realize that a restaurant is much like any business - let the buyer beware. They expect to not have to pay for a meal that they simply did not enjoy, which of course is absurd. With regards to students (whom you claim get the shoddiest service), if they cannot afford to go out for dinner, then they shouldn't be. Places like

McDonald's and La Presse Cafe exist for a reason; if you're going to go out for dinner, you should have enough to cover the meal, the tax, and the tip. The tip is not something you give if you feel like being nice. The government assumes the customers are giving it and thus, until that changes, the customers should have no choice but to give it."

Once again, the lines of communication are open. Do we deserve better service, or do servers deserve better patrons? Let me know at feast@mcgilldaily.com

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POST-HIPPO

SEX COLUMN

BY JOHN LESARE
The McGill Daily

I suppose I'll begin my discussion of forbidden sex in quite an unorthodox way by relating my most delicious and strange masturbatory fantasy from the past 12 months.

It was, I reckon, a forbidden fantasy, but one in which I was curiously called on to play judge, jury and accused. Literally put, I was imagining on a regular basis that I was the guy, the pure sexual animal, who had persuaded my then girlfriend into bed. I was him, and to an eerie extent, I still try to recreate his image both in my mind and in my own appearance. I yearned to be him, to be able to fuck what's-her-name with the abandon and transgressive lust which only infidelity could deliver. When she read me poetry about wanting to be "filled and split down the middle by him"

"In other words, stay out of my pants!"

my own reaction wasn't anger or even petty jealousy, but an envious desire to switch roles. She assured me in reality this was not possible. He was not gentle like me. He was firm and almost rough with her. Simply the smell, she noted, could trigger an insatiable need to dive into each other's underwear. Not only that, but she admitted upon questioning that the whole sha-bang was that much more titillating because she wasn't supposed to be doing it. She feared being caught, but she had gotten off on the fear. The acts weren't simply sexual escapades defined as cheating because of the monogamous situation, they were acts which were saturated with the idea of cheating itself, and its decadent disregard for anything that stands in the way of the force between two sets of loins.

Now perhaps you are inclined to remark: LeSare has EX-issues. There is, of course, no doubt that I do. I like them though, they're excellent tools of reference for solid sexual mapping. I feel much more at ease being able to understand and discuss the backward and insane sexual patterns which I inhabit. Alfred Kinsey, author of the famed Kinsey reports on sexuality from the mid-point of the last century, offered the first invitation to discover North

American sexuality as something other than the linear model of "Normal" and "Not-Normal." He eschewed the use of the word, and in a recent collection of photographs published from the Kinsey archive entitled Peek, you can peruse the nitty-gritty images that helped make up his own discourse on the erotic. All of this, of course, raises the question then of what's forbidden today?

Is anything forbidden? Should there be rules? I still remember the ghastly looks on many faces in Karin Cope's "Queer Theory" class three years ago when she suggested the necessary acceptance of bestiality as a valid sexual choice. Even incest, the subject of moral indoctrination over centuries of Western thought, is brought to a strange sphere of discussion in popular films like "The House of Yes" (which is a great, albeit disconcerting look at incest and sexual role-playing starring Parker Posey).

No doubt, certain things are still off-limits. Public sex. Infidelity. But the shine is wearing dull on even these as they have now become widely popularized. Doing it because it's wrong is just so right, right? Stories of sex in SSMU offices, Daily editor trysts, and my own friends and their public park escapades, all seem to be pointing to a reclamation of sexual action as possessed by individuals themselves. Your sex is your own! It



This is Parker Posey. She is in "The House of Yes". It is about forbidden love. And incest. Probably not bestiality, however.

took a couple of thousand years to undo the damage done by various religious sects, but in their own fashion, over-zealous and undersexed clergy have made their own contributions to our sexual excitement. They have, by combining guilt with sex and making them indivisible for many centuries, made the process of unraveling guilt from sex an excellent reverse process of fetishizing guilt. The last laugh is that being bad is good. The unsavoury and sour faces of those around us who attempt to detain our sexuality in their paradigms of "decency"

have become a physical and social solidification of our own reordering of things.

I love referring back to Dr. Theresa Crenshaw's great book about the science behind desire, *The Alchemy of Love and Lust*, because it forces an acknowledgment or a rediscovery of the insanity which underlies much of our chemical make-up. She notes, for example, that Phenylethylamine or PEA, the "love molecule," the only hormone released simply by looking at erotic pictures or your beloved, is also present in high levels during times of divorce and in schizophren-

ics. Is it any wonder then that these forbidden love situations occur so frequently (and should occur), given the degree to which our senses are over-wrought by chemical infusions? Is it ever considered that our rational paradigms of marriage and perversion are the side which is flawed? Is it possible that we are finally realizing that our institutions don't fit our chemistries as human beings? And if it is someone else's rationality which calls us to curb our physical natures, isn't that unnatural itself? I'm not positing that hurting anyone else is good, and I advocate that in all things sexual the golden rule still applies (especially if you are still fooling with that monogamy thing), but I firmly reject the notion of "limiting offensiveness" as a defense to the moral pontification by conservatives. In other words, stay out of my pants!

Come to think of it, I do remember one engaging episode of sexual transgression at my Roman Catholic high school. It involved me, a girlfriend, and the floor of the student council office. It was probably some of the best oral sex I ever performed. As judge, jury and accused, I would have to say I'm guilty as charged, and it feels really succulent.

Write me at laid@botmail.com with any lewd comments or stories about bestiality.

daily classifieds

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